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DeLeon Guerrero, Villagomez agree with proposed 3 priority issues for 902 talks. PAGE 4

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Finance made significant collections, but shortfall remains $4.1M

Norita

» As of March 31, 2024, $17M were paid in Minimum Annual Payment for retirees, $6.3M for retirees' 25% voluntary benefit payment

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Department of Finance has made significant collections during the end of the second quarter of fiscal year 2024, closing the projected 22% shortfall of $17 million to only 5%, or $4.1 million.

In Finance's quarterly financial report for the second quarter of FY 2024 submitted to the Legislature on Wednesday, Finance Secretary Tracy B. Norita said as of March 31, 2024

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$17.6M in tax refunds out this month

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

» First batch is May 15
» DRT already processed over 12,799 tax returns

The Department of Finance will release this month $17.6 million in tax refunds, with the first batch expected to be disbursed by May 15 and will continue weekly as refunds become available to disburse.

Palacios

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang announced yesterday that the Division of Revenue & Taxation has already processed over 12,799 tax returns, amounting to approximately

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DOL: Jobs available for over 100 Hyatt employees

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The Department of Labor, who has been tasked with helping soon-to-be displaced Hyatt Regency Saipan employees, says they are confident that they will be able to find jobs for these

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KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
Department of Labor Secretary Leila Staffler, left and DOL's Joe Villacrusis speak on the rapid response action plan in response to the impending displacement of over 100 employees once Hyatt Regency Saipan closes come June 30.

First responders, gov't agencies unite in search of missing person

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Department of Public Safety sets up a command post at the Suicide Cliff yesterday after missing person Juan Salas' car was found parked there.

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

Local first responders and various government agencies banded together yesterday in search of 65-year-old Juan Salas.

Last Wednesday, May 1, the

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services search party discusses their game plan in the search for 65-year-old Juan Salas who was reported missing last Wednesday, May 1.

INSIDE

NATION
The U.S. imposed new sanctions on hundreds of companies and people tied to Russia's weapons development program, more than a dozen Chinese entities accused of helping Moscow find workarounds to earlier penalties, and individuals linked to the death of Alexei Navalny.
PAGE 13

WORLD
Lack of ammunition is forcing the outnumbered Ukrainian soldiers to pull back, one village after another, including three surrendered Sunday, as intense fighting roils the countryside surrounding Avdiivka nearly three months after the strategic city fell to Russia.
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LIFE & STYLE
Ethan Hawke and his daughter Maya Hawke have a running joke about their Flannery O'Connor movie. "Wildcat," which Ethan directed and Maya stars in as O'Connor, was made with complete sincerity.
PAGE 15

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Local

Law Day competition winners awarded

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
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CORRESPONDENT

In celebration of National Law Week, Law Day, and the CNMI Judiciary's 35th anniversary, a special court session was held last Wednesday at the Guma Hustisia in Susupe.

The highlight of the event was the awarding of students who topped the Judiciary's Voice of Democracy art and essay competition. Participating elementary students were tasked to draw a photo that represented the theme of this year's national law week which was "Voices of Democracy." The young artists had to deepen their knowledge and try to capture points that can help move the country forward; like civil and yet present honest discussions of current issues, participation in voting, and promoting free and fair elections.

Winning $100 and the Presiding Judge Award was Saipan Community School 4th grader Fiona Yu, the Associate Judge Award and $75 went to Kagman Elementary School 5th grader Dakota Ilek, while KES fourth grader Vanity Paulus received the Superior Court Award and $50.

For the middle school essay awards, after creatively capturing the theme "Voices of Democracy," Dandan Middle School 8th grader Reese Denise Zamora received the Chief Justice Award and $100, Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr./Sr High School 7th grader Zaijan Lorenzo Hocog won the Associate Judge Award and $75, while taking home $50 and the Supreme Court Award was Dandan DMS 8th grader Isabella Sablan.

Along with the money the young individuals who topped this division were awarded a Judiciary pin, a CNMI history book, and a certificate of recognition. The two honorable mentions were Oleai Elementary School 4th grader Summer Jaydiss Seman Dela Cruz and Green Meadow School 6th grader Jamie Andrea Palabay. Both were awarded a certificate, a pin, and a book.

In attendance at the event were Chief Justice Alexandro C. Castro, Justice Perry B. Inos and associate judges Kenneth L. Govendo and Teresa Kim-Tenorio. While congratulating the students, Inos shared that the contest had 106 entries—67 for the poster art contest and 39 for the essay contest.

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CUC board agrees to offer CFO position

» Newly hired executive director Theisen arriving June 1 or early June

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board of directors has agreed to offer the position of the chief financial officer to one of four candidates, according to board chair Janice A. Tenorio on Tuesday.

Tenorio said in an interview that the panel already made a decision about the selection of the CFO position so right now they are in the offering stage.

Tenorio

Rodolfo Urbano, who is a U.S. certified public accountant, has been designated acting CFO after Greg Cruz declined to renew his contract that expired on May 21, 2023. Urbano did not apply for the position.

Acting CUC executive director Betty G. Terlaje said in an interview on Tuesday that they already made an offer and are just waiting for the selected candidate to accept the CFO position.

Terlaje said there were four candidates interviewed and the team met and selected two, then they made an offer to one.

She said three candidates are from off-island and one from on-island.

Terlaje said they cannot disclose other details of the selected candidate for protection of the applicant's confidentiality.

She said details of that candidate will be announced once he or she accepts CUC's offer.

Regarding the executive director, Tenorio said professional engineer Christopher Theisen, who is from California, is scheduled to arrive June 1, 2024 or sometime in early June.

Tenorio said Theisen asked to start in June so he can process his belongings.

"Relocation that's a big move," Tenorio said.

The board approved last February a two-year contract for Theisen.

The executive director's position has been vacant since Gary P. Camacho resigned on Feb. 21, 2023. Terlaje has been the acting executive director since April 2023.

Under the court-mandated orders called stipulated orders, CUC will be penalized if critical positions such as the CFO and the executive director, are not filled within 150 days.

CUC has agreed to pay the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency $108,000 to settle a $162,000 fine for failing to timely fill critical vacant positions.

Marianas Tourism Month 2024 activities set

In observance of Marianas Tourism Month, the Marianas Visitors Authority has organized a series of community events in May 2024 to celebrate and support the primary economic driver of the Marianas.

"Marianas Tourism Month is our opportunity as a community to celebrate the primary economic driver of our Commonwealth—tourism," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "Tourism provides for private and public sectors jobs, generates revenue for businesses and government, and gives us an opportunity to share with the world what makes The Marianas a great place to live, to work, and to visit. We invite everyone to find your own way to celebrate Tourism Month and to join the MVA in working throughout the year toward making The Marianas a preferred travel destination."

A proclamation signing ceremony declaring May as Tourism Month was held last April 30 at 1pm at the Office of the Governor. Saipan Southern High School MY WAVE Club joined industry leaders at the event and assisted with the ceremony.

The 25th Annual Taste of The Marianas International Food Festival will be held on May 4, 11, 18, and 25, 2024, at American Memorial Park, Garapan, from 5pm to 10pm (until 11pm on the final night), featuring affordable dishes from local hotels and restaurants, live entertainment, food eating competitions, cooking contests, arts and crafts sales, and more. Entry is free.

The MVA will hold a Facebook and Instagram photo contest, "Capture the Beauty of The Marianas," awarding cash prizes for the winners: $300 for first place, $200 for second place, and $100 for third place. Participants must post their favorite photo of Saipan, Tinian, or Rota between May 1-27, 2024, at 11:59pm ChST and use the hashtags #MyMarianas, #TheMarianas, #CapturetheBeautyofTheMarianas2024, and #VistTheMarianas. Photos must feature Marianas' attractions, such as historical or cultural sites, beaches, or others. Winners will be announced on May 31, 2024, via the MVA Facebook page @VistTheMarianas.

The MVA will host its annual Youth Familiarization Tour field trip in Tinian for 3rd graders. As "Tourists for a Day," students will learn about the significance of historic Tinian sites and the importance of site preservation.

Island beautification also remains a priority for Marianas Tourism Month. The public is invited to join the annual Tourism Month Industry Cleanup and painting on May 18 in downtown Garapan. Interested volunteers are invited to meet at Paseo de Marianas at 7:30am or organize individual cleanups around the islands. On Rota, student volunteers of the National Honor Society will clean and paint at the historic Rota Sugar Mill Train site on May 11, and beach cleanups will be held by school Student Council and MY WAVE Club volunteers from Guata Beach to Rota's award-winning Teteto Beach on May 18. Cleanup efforts in Tinian will focus on clearing and extending the reopened historic Ginzoa Trail and enhancing the historic Kastiyu Caves site.

MVA

The photo of plumerias submitted by Mary Haze wins first place in the Saipan category of the Marianas Visitors Authority's "Capture the Beauty of The Marianas" online photo contest held in May 2023. The MVA has announced a photo contest and a series of other events to celebrate Marianas Tourism Month in May 2024.

Through the month the public will have the chance to win a limited Tourism Month T-shirts and gift cards throughout the month by correctly answering tourism-related trivia questions on radio stations Power 99 (97.5 FM), KZMI (103.9 FM) and Magic 100 (100.3 FM).

For more information, visit www.facebook.com/VisitTheMarianas or www.mymarianas.com/The-Marianas-Calendar or for Saipan events contact MVA Community Projects specialist Jack Aranda at (670) 664-3200/1 or communityprojects@mymarianas.com, for Tinian events contact MVA Tinian Field Operations supervisor Vida Borja at vborja@mymarianas.com or (670) 433-9365, and for Rota events contact MVA Rota Field Operations supervisor Dave Atalig at datalig@mymarianas.com or (670) 532-0327. ***(PR)***

Alternate site for cashier on May 3 and 6

On April 18, 2024, the CNMI Supreme Court issued an administrative order that closed the Guma' Hustisia on Friday, May 3, and Monday, May 6, 2024, for building maintenance. During this time the Budget and Finance Office cashier will be located at the Law Revision Commission office space at JCT Building II, Unit 6, and open from 8am to 2pm.

Please visit the Judiciary's website at www.nmijudiciary.gov for court information.

The Guma' Hustisia will resume regular business hours on Tuesday, May 7, 2024.

For additional information or inquiries, contact the following individuals:

Nora V. Borja
Acting clerk of court CNMI Supreme Court
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or Superior.Court@NMIJudiciary.gov. ***(PR)***

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DeLeon Guerrero, Villagomez agree with proposed 3 priority issues for 902 talks

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) and House Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) have agreed with the three priority issues that Gov. Arnold I. Palacios proposes to engage with the U.S. government in his request to U.S. President Joseph R. Biden Jr. for consultations between the CNMI and U.S. governments pursuant to Section 902 of the Covenant.

In her response to *Saipan Tribune*'s request for comment about Palacios' proposals to Biden, DeLeon Guerrero said on Wednesday that the governor's three critical priority issues are the CNMI's lifeline out of its current depressed economy.

In his letter dated April 26, 2024 to Biden, Palacios proposes to discuss for this round of consultations three priority issues: direct financial assistance under Section 702 of the Covenant, tourism and transportation, and access to skilled labor.

DeLeon Guerrero said having come from experience on prior 902 talks, a structured and organized issues of importance for discussion are critical at this level of diplomacy between the two governments.

DeLeon Guerrero introduced Senate Joint Resolution 23-05 requesting Biden and Palacios to consult on a number of subjects, as provided in Section 902 of the Covenant. The Senate and House adopted the resolution, last Oct. 24 and Nov. 6, respectively.

Villagomez, on the other hand, said on Wednesday that those are good issues to start with as those will help with the development of the CNMI's economy, among other things.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

TAX

From page 1

$17.6 million in potential tax refunds.

The child tax refunds amounting to $4.4 million, earned income tax credit $10.4 million, and regular refund/rebate $2.7 million.

Palacios said in a statement that these refund estimates are likely to increase as DRT continues to receive and process tax returns.

Palacios thanked the Department of Finance for their diligence and commitment in processing the tax refunds expeditiously.

"I commend the Department of Finance team for their work in processing refunds quickly to distribute these refunds to our community," the governor said.

He asked everyone to continue to exercise patience as the refund process continues.

Finance Secretary Tracy N. Norita said actual disbursements of refunds requires a tax return to be error-free, and as such, any errors on returns may cause delays in the issuance of a refund.

Norita said taxpayers who opted for a check payment method may expect additional processing time for mail delivery.

She thanked the community for their patience and cooperation during tax season as DOF continues to process refunds and other tax-related disbursements.

DOF said taxpayers may check on the status of their refund online through the Taxpayer Assistance Portal at https.//finance.gov.mp/taxpayer-assistance.php.

Taxpayers are able to submit a status request ticket by providing: Social Security Number, Mailing Address, Filing Tax Year, and Filing Status (Single/MF-Joint/MF-Separated/Widow).

Taxpayers may also contact the DRT Call Center at (670) 664-1040.

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ITB24-GOV/CIP-42400089

SUBMISSION DATE: 10:00 AM ChST, JUNE 5, 2024

DIVISION OF FINANCIAL SERVICES BUILDING RENOVATION & IMPROVEMENTS BLDG #1303

Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Governor David M. Apatang, through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), are soliciting sealed bids for the Division of Financial Service Building Renovation & Improvements in Capitol Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). This project will be funded by the 702 Covenant funding under the U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs.

The project package will be available in digital format only beginning **May 3, 2024** at the Capital Improvement Program Office, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan, during regular working hours or online at Vendor Self-Service (selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/Vendors/Vbids).

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held at the project site located in Capitol Hill, Saipan at **10:00 AM ChST, May 21, 2024.** Questions regarding this ITB may be submitted via email to Ms. Nerissa B. Karakaya at nerissa.benavente@gov.mp no later than **4:00 PM ChST, May28, 2024**. All Questions & Answers will be shared with all prospective bidders.

Bidders located outside of the CNMI must fill out and submit the Notice of Intent to Bid Form to the Acting Director of Procurement Services via email (bidintent@dof.gov.mp) no later than **10:00 AM ChST, June 5, 2024.**

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS, AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

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/S/ Arnold I. Palacios
Governor, CNMI

/S/ Brien S. Nicholas Jr.
Acting Director, CNMI Procurement Services

Extreme drought persists in the Marianas

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
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REPORTER

The National Weather Service reports that extreme drought persists in the Marianas despite recent showers.

According to NWS' weekly drought information statement, drought continues to spread in Micronesia with drought worsening in some areas.

Specifically for the Marianas—namely Saipan, Tinian, and Guam,the islands remain at D3 or extreme drought on the drought intensity chart.

As for Rota, Rota has gone down to D1 on the chart or moderate drought.

Meanwhile, exceptional drought persists across Yap State and the northern Marshall Islands and will likely worsen until soaking rains return (which NWS says still could take weeks to a couple months).

NWS also states in its report that water conservation measures are highly encouraged for those locations experiencing extreme to exceptional drought as both dry season and the dry phase of the waning El Niño continues.

In addition, NWS states residents should report agricultural and hydrologic impacts. Reports from the islands are critical for decision-making and government responses.

In terms of agricultural strain, wildfires have been reported on Guam, with one event burning through a reforestation project. Recent wildfires have also been reported in Palau, Yap, and Saipan

As for hydrologic impacts, NWS says water catchment levels are low or nearly empty on some islands.

"Water shortages for communities are occurring, especially for islands in Yap State, and the northern RMI," said NWS.

DOL

From page 1

employees come June 30.

Last Tuesday, Hyatt Regency Saipan officially announced that they will be permanently closing come June 30. This would leave 146 employees without jobs.

However, in an interview with Labor Secretary Leila Staffler, she said she is confident that they will be able to absorb these employees and help place them in new jobs.

"As soon as we heard about the closure of the Hyatt, we reached out to Gov. Arnold I. Palacios and he tasked the Department of Labor with becoming available to provide any resources—through all of the programs we have. We're ready to stand and serve our community and see what we can do to help people transition through this tough change. We do have awareness of different properties that are seeking employees. So being able to line them up and collaborate with them, essentially being that middleman, is what we are here for," she said.

"I won't speak to specific businesses, but they have been working with our programs and it just so happens that it lined up perfectly with this event. So, we have high hopes that every person in Hyatt will be able to find new employment. We've also been told that there are other businesses that, as soon as they heard [about Hyatt's closure], were reaching out to the Hyatt directly as well," Staffler added.

The DOL secretary noted that Hyatt employees, with their vast experience in customer service, are valuable.

"Finding skilled employees is hard, and the people that have been working at Hyatt have had a lot of training and they are some of the best service partners in the CNMI. It's sad to see Hyatt go, but we know that we will be able to absorb all the different employees they have," she said.

Rapid response plan

Staffler stated that after hearing about Hyatt's closure, DOL immediately worked on a rapid response plan in response to the impending displacement of over 140 US workers.

"We know there are 146 employees at the Hyatt and over 80% of them are U.S. workers, they will be let go after June 30. We officially heard about this on April 30 and then we did an outreach that same day. We have a plan in place already," she said.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

FINANCE

From page 1

(year to date), the cumulative gross collections equaled $78,538,571 as compared to forecast of $82,679,442 resulting in a cumulative shortfall of $4,140,871, or 5% of total revenue prior to transfers out.

Norita also disclosed that as of March 31, 2024, they paid $17 million of the NMI Settlement Fund Minimum Annual Payment (MAP).

Since 2014, pursuant to a settlement agreement between the CNMI government and retirees, the CNMI government has been making a 25% voluntary benefit payment to the NMI Settlement Fund on top of the court-mandated 75% MAP.

Norita said although a shortfall of $4.1 million in collections remains, the continued increase in tourist arrivals, with February 2024 arrivals above 50% and March 2024 above 30%, coupled with the modest recovery of local economic activity, has contributed to overall 2nd quarter collections.

Additionally, the secretary said, the continuing efforts of the Tax Collection Taskforce and the newly launched Division of Revenue and Taxation's Revenue Management & Information System (RMIS), has strengthened Finance's enforcement capabilities, exceeding collections in the Income Taxes category for the quarter by 15% or $3.4 million, inclusive of Business Gross Revenue Tax (BGRT) collections, and increasing penalty and interest collections by over $560,000 for the quarter alone.

Norita said with a total collection amounting to $78.5 million prior to transfers out less earmarks, the identified budgetary resources of $75.8 million as compared to forecast of $80.3 million, resulted in a cumulative shortfall of $4,561,817, or 6%.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

FIRST

From page 1

Department of Public Safety took to social media to inform the community that 65-year-old Gualo Rai resident had been reported missing by his loved ones.

The first day of the search for Salas, which officially began yesterday, yielded no results, but first responders and government agencies involved will be continuing their search today.

Salas, who is 5'9 about 235 lbs with brown eyes, was reportedly last seen at his residence wearing a shirt, black jean shorts, and black slippers.

After the missing person report had been disseminated to the public, first responders began the search soon after.

According to acting DPS commissioner Anthony Macaranas, Salas' vehicle was found at the Suicide Cliff historical site yesterday morning.

"DPS along with other agencies are actively canvassing the Suicide Cliff area. The missing person's vehicle was found parked there," said Macaranas.

Because Salas' vehicle was found at Suicide Cliff, first responders gathered at the Suicide Cliff area using the area as the staging grounds while search parties went out to comb through the surrounding area.

Macaranas said he sought aid from the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, Homeland Security and Emergency Management, Customs and Biosecurity, Alcoholic Beverage and Tobacco Control, and the Saipan Mayor's Office.

In addition, DPS is also encouraging volunteers interested in joining the search to come out to Suicide Cliff to check in at the staging area to avoid any mishaps.

"I have requested additional assistance from the mayor's office, Customs Biosecurity, ABTC, and HSEM. We ask that those who want to assist with the search proceed to our DPS command post for accountability purpose. We ask that volunteers check in with our post so that to avoid any incidents of injury or getting lost while assisting in the search. We also ask that other agencies that want to assist, to also check-in at the command post," said Macaranas.

Saipan Tribune learned yesterday that Salas' family is also helping in the search and has been posted at the Suicide Cliff since yesterday morning saying prayers for their loved one.

Salas is the third person to be reported missing this year.

Manglona questions owner's motive in appealing Rota Resort lease termination

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) has questioned the motive behind the owner of Rota Resort & Country Club's filing of an appeal to the Superior Court after the Department of Public Land's decision to terminate DPL's land lease agreement with the resort.

In his letter to DPL Secretary Teresita A. Santos on Tuesday, Manglona said it appears that Hee Kyun Cho's motive in filing the appeal is to further delay his eviction from the resort's premises and further delay his obligation to pay more than half a million dollars of what is owed to DPL.

The senator asked DPL to request the court to impose punitive damages because Cho's conduct and motive are egregious, especially if it prevents the DPL from moving forward in marketing the premises.

He said the DPL lawyer must request the judge assigned in the case to impose a security bond that will be used to cover the costs of security and maintenance of the premises.

Manglona said the request must include punitive damages and authorization to the DPL to issue a request for proposal to lease the property since it is very unlikely that Cho will succeed in his appeal.

Last March 22, Santos affirmed the DPL administrative hearing officer's decision that terminates DPL's land lease agreement with Rota Resort.

Santos stated, among other things, that administrative hearing officer Ramon S. Dela Cruz's decision issued on Dec. 5, 2023, correctly concludes that Article II of the lease agreement does not apply to payment of rent or abandonment of the premises.

Article II states that when a delay is caused by a *force majeure* event, the period of delay "shall be added to the period allowed for the completion of such work."

Force majeure refers to an unforeseeable circumstance that hinders a party from fulfilling its part in a contract.

Santos said the hearing officer's decision correctly concludes that Rota Resort LLC, which owns Rota Resort & Country Club, failed to establish that its failures were in whole or in part due to the COVID-19 pandemic because the company cannot establish that its failures would not have occurred but for COVID-19.

Manglona said he just learned that Cho appealed to the court and that with the appeal, the court will have to schedule a hearing to hear the parties.

Manglona said after the hearing, the judge will most likely take the matter under advisement and render a written decision at a later time.

He said this process will take time and they don't know how much time the judge will take to render a decision.

The senator said while the appeal is pending in court, he is greatly concerned, and the DPL should be equally concerned, that in the meantime the resort property must have security and needed maintenance.

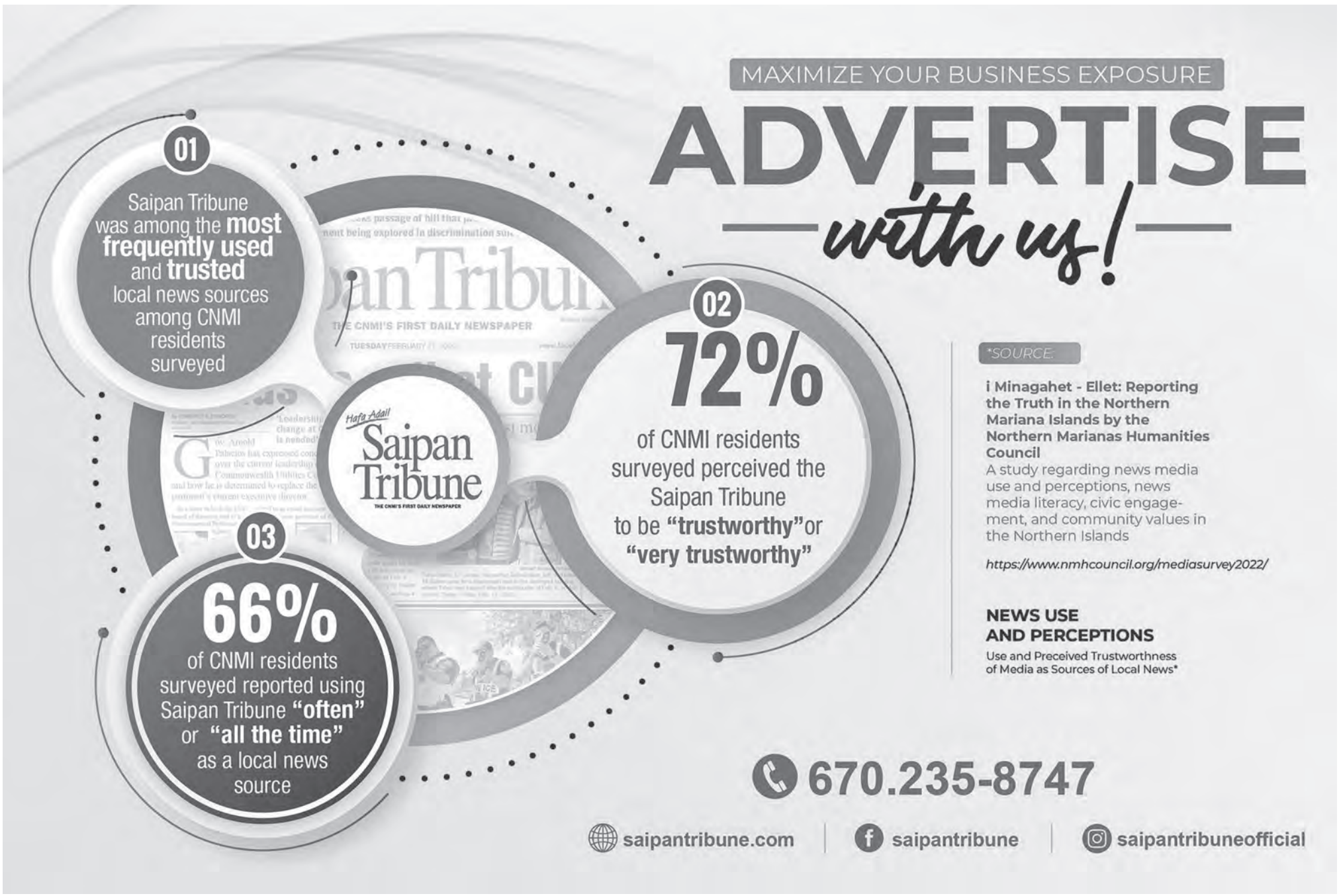
"The DPL cannot afford to neglect the property during the period the appeal decision is pending," he said.

In Rota Resort LLC and Cho's appeal to Santos to reverse the hearing officer's Dec. 5, 2023 decision, their counsel, Colin M. Thompson, said Cho has not abandoned the resort and, is, in fact, planning to transform it into a world-class golfing destination that's close to Asia.

Thompson said Dela Cruz erred in concluding that the *force majeure* clause does not apply to payment of rent or abandonment.

TRUSTEE CLUB SILVER SPONSOR CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Shipping Co. pledged $5,000 as a Trustees Club silver sponsor for the upcoming Joeten Memorial Golf Classic. The golf tourney is set on July 6, 2024 at the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort.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01
Saipan Tribune was among the most frequently used and trusted local news sources among CNMI residents surveyed
02
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of CNMI residents surveyed perceived the Saipan Tribune to be "trustworthy"or "very trustworthy"
03
66%
of CNMI residents surveyed reported using Saipan Tribune "often" or "all the time" as a local news source
Hafa Adai
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
*SOURCE:
i Minagahet - Ellet: Reporting the Truth in the Northern Mariana Islands by the Northern Marianas Humanities Council
A study regarding news media use and perceptions, news media literacy, civic engagement, and community values in the Northern Islands
https://www.nmhcouncil.org/mediasurvey2022/
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NMHC graduates 1 more from FSS Program

On April 30, 2024, Northern Marianas Housing Corp.'s Board of Directors, management, and staff presented another graduate with a. certificate of completion under the NMHC's Family Self-Sufficiency Program.

Director Oscar M. Babauta presented Peggy Hong with a certificate of completion and commended Hong for her outstanding achievement and emphasized not to lose that initiative and hard work it took for her to become self-sufficient. Chairwoman Merced "Marcie" M. Tomokane reiterated those sentiments and asked if NMHC could share her story with others in the community and to allow NMHC to publicly share, so that others can benefit from the FSS Program.

NMHC continues to encourage Housing Choice Voucher Participants to enroll in the FSS Program to avail of assistance such as job placement, obtaining GED, learning crafts and trades, etc. to better their lives and become less dependent on federal subsidies/assistance.

Hong has participated in the FSS Program since June 2017 as a family of nine. Her goal was to find a job and set her family up for a better life. She found employment with Kensington Hotel Saipan in September 2017 and is currently employed with the same company. The FSS Program assisted Hong's son to enroll in the Northern Marianas Technical Institute. In addition, the FSS Program helped him with enrolling with the Department of Labor and Workforce Investment Agency to get financial assistance with the tuition at NMTI. Hong's son is participating in his family's success by obtaining his GED and completing the Automotive Technology Certification Courses with NMTI. Hong stated, "Since I joined this program, I started to build stability and became strong willed just because I felt like I had a purpose in life. This program helped me grow and made me feel confident." She also wanted to express her thanks to her FSS coordinator who helped her throughout the process of the program. Now, Hong's journey will continue in the United States as she and the remaining family are relocating to join her adult children.

The FSS Program is a voluntary program designed to assist families in becoming economically dependent. With the support of local agencies, FSS combines case management, education, job training, and ongoing support to aid the family in improving their lives and to achieve complete financial independence within (5-7) years. The main requirements are the desire to become self-sufficient and a commitment to take the steps necessary to make this happen. Eligible participants are those who are currently receiving rental assistance through the Housing Choice Voucher Program and are the head of household and 18 years of age or older. A great benefit to the FSS Program is that recipients, who pay a rent share, receive an interest-bearing escrow account. The account accrues as the household's portion accrues as the household's portion of rent increases because of an increase in earned income. The account is held until the participant successfully completes the contract. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-007-24

SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 22, 2024: 2:00 P.M.

"AIRPORT GROUNDS MAINTENANCE SERVICES LANDSIDE PROPERTY"

THE PROPOSAL PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE COMMONWONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) ACCOUNTING OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING APRIL 19, 2024. AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF $100.00 SHALL BE PAID TO CPA BEFORE A BIDDER MAY OBTAIN THE BID PACKAGE. PAYMENTS SHALL BE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD.

PROPOSERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "AIRPORT GROUNDS MAINTENANCE SERVICES LANDSIDE PROPERTY (RFP-007-24)" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., MAY 22, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS OR PROPOSALS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

LEO B. TUDELA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DATE: _____

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 |
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmiports.com

INVITATION FOR BID
PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-008-24

SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 24, 2024: 2:00 P.M.

"60 MONTH LEASE OF FIVE (5) ALL-IN ONE MULTIFUNCTION PRINTER/COPIER MACHINES"

THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE COMMONWONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) ACCOUNTING OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING APRIL 19, 2024. AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF $100.00 SHALL BE PAID TO CPA BEFORE A BIDDER MAY OBTAIN THE BID PACKAGE. PAYMENTS SHALL BE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "60-MONTH LEASE OF FIVE (5) ALL-IN-ONE MULTIFUNCTION PRINTER/COPIER MACHINES (IFB-008-24)" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., MAY 24, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

LEO B. TUDELA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DATE: _____

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
P. O. Box 501304, Saipan MP 96950 • Gualo Rai Center, Saipan
TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315 • www.dcrm.gov.mp

NOTICE OF APPLICATION
As of May 03, 2024

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

NO.	APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1.	Oceanal Corporation dba Divewish	04/05/2024 SLR-2024-039	Commercial SCUBA Diving Tour Operations & Instruction	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Application Under Review* 04/24/2024
2.	Fengyi Zhang Williams dba Big Shark Marine Sports	04/12/2024 SSm-2024-041	Placement of Temporary Beachfront Concession	Susupe, Saipan	Shoreline	Approved* 04/24/2024
3.	Rafaelito B. Alvarado	04/10/2024 SLR-2022-X-037-R3	Snorkeling & Tank Porter	Grotto, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 04/19/2024
4.	Mariana Water Tour, Inc. dba Water Player SCUBA Diving	04/10/2024 SLR-2024-042	Non-Motorized Activities SCUBA Diving & Instructions	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved* 04/19/2024
5.	Gaja Corporation dba Gaja Saipan	04/12/2024 SLR-2023-012-R3	Commercial Snorkeling Activities	Grotto, Paupau, Obyan & Laulau Beach, Saipan and Managaha Island	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 4/19/2024
6.	Captain Nite's Boat Charter, LLC dba Captain Nite's	04/12/2024 SLR-2024-001-R2	Banana Boat Operations & Snorkeling Activities	All Designated Zones, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 04/19/2024
7.	Phoenix Enterprise, Inc. dba Phoenix Marine Sports	04/15/2024 SLR-2024-043-R2 (Formerly APC2023-0028)	Commercial Snorkeling, Sailing/Hobie Cat Tour	Saipan & Managaha Lagoon	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 04/19/2024
8.	Ocean Sports Corporation dba Aqua Dive	04/16/2024 SLR-2023-004-R2	SCUBA Diving Instruction & Tour Operation	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved 04/24/2024
9.	Department of Public Works (DPW)	04/16/2024 TMS-2024-044	Route 205 Road Improvements Project	San Jose, Tinian	Major Siting	Application Under Review*
10.	Triple J Saipan, Inc.	04/19/2024 TMS-2022-035-A2	Construction of One (1) Additional Barracks	Marpo Heights, Tinian	Major Siting	Application Under Review
11.	Soo Corporation dba Saipan Diving World	04/26/2024 SLR-2023-013-R2	Commercial SCUBA Diving Tour	All Designated Dive Sites, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Application Under Review
12.	World Corporation dba Saipan World Resort	04/26/2024 SLR-2023-042-R2	Kayaking, Snorkeling, Stand Up Paddle Boarding, Windsurfing & Floaters Activities	Susupe, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Application Under Review

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

Lady Wella Foundation donates $1K to 2024 MMAC

The 2024 Marianas March Against is honored to announce the generous contribution of $1,000 from the Lady Wella Foundation, solidifying their role as a Major Sponsor for this year's event. The foundation's dedication to community health and cancer awareness is commendable, and their support will play a significant role in advancing our mission in fighting cancer in the Marianas.

The 2024 Marianas March Against Cancer, meanwhile, would also like to extend its heartfelt gratitude to all of the sponsors who made this year's event possible.

"Your steadfast support and generosity are the driving force behind our mission to make a tangible difference in the lives of cancer patients and their families. Together, we stand united in the fight against cancer, and we are immensely grateful for your partnership and commitment to this noble cause," 2024 MMAC organizing committee said in a statement.

The following are the 2024 MMAC sponsors:

STAR SPONSORS
- Tan Siu Lin Foundation
- Joeten Daidai

PLATINUM SPONSORS
- Hågu Real Brand

TITLE SPONSORS
- Bank of Guam
- *Marianas Variety*
- Saipan Mayor's Office
- Dave's Electronics
- CPA
- PHI Pharmacy
- Crowne Plaza
- The Hook Up
- TakeCare FHP

MAJOR SPONSORS
- Docomo Pacific
- GPPC Inc.
- IT&E
- Trader's Insurance Company
- Hofschneider Engineering Corporation
- Herman's Modern Bakery
- AP Group
- TurnKey Solutions
- Isla Community Health
- Lady Wella Foundation
- *Saipan Tribune*

There are four tiers of sponsorship packages: The first is at $10,000, and that sponsorship is usually represented on the MMAC shirt. The second one is $8,000-plus, the third $3,000-plus, and fourth is $1,000-plus. They will also recognize $500 and up sponsorships. This includes in-kind and monetary donations.

For sponsorship opportunities, contact: mmac.sponsorship@gmail.com.

MMAC

First lady Wella Palacios, seventh from left, poses with Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang, Jocelyn F. Deleon Guerrero, and 2024 Marianas March Against Cancer chair Jenypy Sambile following the Lady Wella Foundation's donation of $1,000.

Meanwhile, there are six tiers of entry for participating teams: Pulan for families and Napu for schools, will cost $300 for both; Atdao for non-profits, $399; Tano for non-profit organizations partnering with a school, educational institution or government agency, $500; Puti'on for corporations, $550; and Tasi for corporations partnering with a family, non-profit organization or school, $750. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 | Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmiports.com

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit their qualifications and bid proposals for the **BENJAMIN TAISACAN MANGLONA AIRPORT AIRCRAFT PARKING APRON REHABILITATION AIP NO. 3-69-0003-34/XX,** OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS.

Bidders are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: *"Benjamin Taisacan Manglona Airport Aircraft Parking Apron Rehabilitation AIP No. 3-69-0003-34/XX"* and submitted no later than **2:00 p.m. (CHST). FRIDAY. MAY 24. 2024.** to the Office of the Executive Director at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan Internation Airport, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal. Bids will be delivered to the Airport Conference Room immediately following the 2:00 p.m. deadline, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The Project, in general, consists of, rehabilitation of the aircraft parking apron including all associated work, all in accordance with the Plans and Specifications.

The Project is being financed by funds by U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and CPA. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

A DVD containing the Bid Proposal and Contract Documents including plans and specifications, may be obtained at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd floor of the Departure Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, upon the payment of **ONE HUNDRED FIFTY ($150.00)** for each set of plans and documents in electronic form (DVD). The payment is nonrefundable. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order made payable to the "Commonwealth Ports Authority". Bidders should notify Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant/Project Manager at wprater@cnmiports.com immediately if there are issues retrieving the files on the DVD. Bidders should also verify all information using the specification table of contents and the index of drawings.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport, at **10:00 AM. FRIDAY. MAY 10. 2024.** at the Rota Airport to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. A site visit will follow the pre-bid conference. Attendance is not mandatory. A site visit will follow the pre-bid conference. Bidders are requested to minimize their company's attendees to ensure social distancing, as well as wear a face mask at all times while at the airport.

Questions should be submitted in writing to the CPA Executive Director's Office, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or emailed to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant/Project Manager at wprater@cnmiports.com at least ten (10) days prior to the bid opening date; with the exception of bid submission extension requests which have no deadline. Responses to all questions and requests for information will be provided to all bidders who purchased the bid documents and attended the pre-bid conference.

Bidders shall use the bid schedule form furnished on the DVD. Each bidder should also supply all supplemental information required in the specifications.

The contract period for construction of the project in its entirety shall be **FOUR HUNDRED FIFTY (450) calendar days.** Liquidated damages in the amount of **ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS ($1,000.00)** shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day that the completion of the Project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without approved excuse.

The apparent low bidder will be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or mis-enter of the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by a U.S. Treasury listed or CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 70-28 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 USC §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders or offerors that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

The United States Secretary of Transportation has granted the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands an exemption from the requirements of the Department of Transportation's Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) regulation, which later became the Department of Transportation's Disadvantaged Business Enterprise program, as it relates to FAA grant programs. The Secretary of Transportation has not determined that a portion of those requirements should be reinstated.

By submitting a bid/proposal under this solicitation, the bidder or offer or certifies that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred or suspended by any Federal department or agency from participation in this transaction.

In addition to the above, all bidders shall comply with all other Federal requirements under this procurement, including but not limited to Buy American Preference, Foreign Trade Restriction, Davis Bacon, Veteran's Preference, Affirmative Action and Governmentwide Debarment and Suspension and Governmentwide Requirements for Drug-free Workplace. Further details on all Federal requirements are provided in the specifications.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ LEO B. TUDELA
Executive Director

Date: April 19, 2024

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 500730
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax. (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff Bank of Guam

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM,	]	**Civil Action No. 15-0197**
Plaintiff,	]	**Civil Action No. 15-0193**
vs.	]	
STEVEN V. PANGELINAN,	]	**NOTICE OF AUCTION AND JUDICIAL SALE OF LOT NO. H-251-3**
Defendant.	]	

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to an Order Granting Writ of Execution issued in the above-titled action by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands on December 11, 2023, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due to the Bank of Guam, as prescribed in the Order Approving Plaintiff's Motion for Writ of Execution of Property. The undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction to the highest bidder on July 30, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., at Robert T. Torres Law Office, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in the said Writ of Execution, to wit:

Lot H-251-3 is 5,000 square meters and is located in As Lito-As Perdido, Saipan Municipality, CNMI. The property is designated as wetland conservation, as shown on the ArcGIS App Map and the National Wetlands Inventory Map of Saipan. The subject lies in a wetland area identified as a Freshwater Emergent Wetland (PEM1F).

1. Public Sale. The auction shall be open to the general public.
2. With Reserve. The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
3. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a. withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before the sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b. to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c. to reject any and all bids.
4. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person or in writing to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 500730, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749; Email: robertorres@rtlawgroup.com.
5. Deposit and Payment: A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, money order, or cashier's check. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title, and interest in any of the property will revert to the Plaintiff Bank of Guam.
6. Change of Terms. The auctioneer and the Plaintiff, Bank of Guam, reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.
7. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. Contact the Law Office of Robert T. Torres to schedule viewing and inspection times. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute grounds for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 16th day of April 2024.

/s/ Robert T. Torres
Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONS LICENSING BOARD
P.O. Box 502078, Bldg., 1242 Pohnpei Court
Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel No: (670) 664-4808/09 Fax: (670) 664-4814
Email: info@cnmilicensing.gov.mp
Website: www.cnmilicensing.gov.mp

Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Governor David M. Apatang, through the Health Care Professions Licensing Board (HCPLB), hereby gives notice that it will hold its regular monthly board meeting on ***Tuesday, May 7, 2024, at 8 a.m.*** on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the Board of Professional Licensing Conference Room, BPL Building on Capitol Hill.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes **(04/10/2024)**
V. Public Comments
VI. Chairperson's Report
- **FSMB Invitation to a Symposium on Alternate Licensing Models**

VII. Director's Report
- **Senate Bill 23-62 – Contractors Licensing Act**

VIII. Investigator's Report
IX. Communications from the Governor's Office & Legislature
- **A.** Governor's Office
- **B.** Legislature

X. Old Business
XI. New Business
XII. Pending Applications for Board's Review
- Total Reviewed = _____ New Applications = _____
- Renewal = _____ Pending = _____

XIII. Miscellaneous Business
XIV. Executive Session: The Board may vote to meet in executive session to consult with Counsel on pending or anticipated legal matters.
- **Report to the CNMI HCPLB (Dr. P. Brett)**
  - **NPDB Data Request Worksheet for CNMI**
- **Report Re Dr. Zigman's Complaint**
- **KCHC Pharmacist Collaborative Practice Agreement**
- **Practicing Without a License (JR)**

XV. Announcements
- **A.** Next Meeting Date
- **B.** Adjournment of Meeting

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
P.O. BOX 500514, Saipan, MP 96950-0514
Email: nmhc@nmhc.gov.mp Website: http://www.nmhcgov.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Board of Directors of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) through its Chairperson, hereby informs the General Public that the NMHC Board of Directors will hold its special meeting on Saturday, May 04, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will be held at the NMHC Conference Room, Garapan Saipan. The public is welcome to submit written or oral comments regarding the agenda below. Individuals interested in attending the meeting and needing special accommodations are requested to contact NMHC in advance

PRELIMINARY MATTERS
- a. Call to Order
- b. Roll Call
- c. Adoption of Agenda

PUBLIC COMMENTS
REPORTS
- a. CORPORATE DIRECTOR
- b. DEPUTY CORPORATE DIRECTOR

OLD BUSINESS
NEW BUSINESS
LEGAL COUNSEL'S PENDING/ONGOING REPORT
EXECUTIVE SESSION
- a. Application and Negotiation for CFO Position

ADJOURNMENT

(Notes: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13 (a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/s/
Merced "Marcie" M. Tomokane
Chairperson of the Board

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Pass Dignity for Detained Immigrants Act for greater transparency

The death of Charles Leo Daniel at the Northwest Detention Center in Tacoma, Washington, piqued the interest of immigrant rights advocates and some members of Washington's congressional delegation. The mystery surrounding his death and the fact that he was housed in solitary confinement for most of the time he was incarcerated is cause for concern.

Nearly two months after his death, how he died has still yet to be made public by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement or the Pierce County medical examiner. ICE issued a report that detailed its version of Daniel's time in federal custody and the immediate time leading up to his death. But one detail ICE officials omitted was the cause of death. Similar reports from ICE on previous deaths of detainees have causes of deaths, but not all of them. The Pierce County medical examiner's website still lists Daniel's cause of death as pending.

That's why Congress should pass the Dignity for Detained Immigrants Act. A greater level of transparency is needed and the bill would do just that.

Should the bill eventually pass, it would require that the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security conduct an investigation into such deaths no later than 30 days after the death of an immigrant in the custody of ICE. The report would include a root cause analysis that identifies any changes to policies, practices, training curricula, staffing, or potential systemwide errors that may reduce the probability of such an event in the future.

The law would also require ICE to report whether the death of a detainee may have resulted from a health problem that existed before or during, or was exacerbated by, the detention.

Daniel, from the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, entered the U.S. through Miami on a visitor's visa in July 2000. He was convicted of second-degree murder in King County in October 2003 and was incarcerated at the Washington Corrections Center in Shelton. He was held in solitary confinement for nearly 10 years in state prisons and for four years at the detention center.

Despite his criminal history, any death of a detainee deserves public scrutiny and laws to protect those who remain in custody.

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IN CASE OF BEING ORDERED TO PAY A $465 MILLION FINE FOR FRAUD
RUSSIAN
CONVICTED FELON, PLED GUILTY TO MONEY LAUNDERING
DARK
BREAK GLASS
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DARKOW .COM

No, having kids right now doesn't make you a 'moron'

By MARK GONGLOFF
Bloomberg Opinion

Mark Gongloff is a Bloomberg Opinion editor and columnist covering climate change. He previously worked for Fortune.com, the Huffington Post *and the* Wall Street Journal.

In the fictional world of the P.D. James novel "Children of Men" and its movie adaptation, humanity has lost the ability to reproduce and thus faces certain extinction. We are meant to understand this as a bad thing. But there is a subset of people who would consider it a utopia. To them, Earth is doomed as long as it's infested with humans.

One such person is a YouTuber named Sam Mitchell, who identifies as an "Eco-Nazi," an "unapologetic doomer" and an "unrepentant collapsitarian." In a recent Medium post titled "Why I Am Proud to Be an Eco-Nazi," he explains that humanity is a plague upon the Earth, that all right-thinking people should therefore sterilize themselves immediately to avoid making more—as Mitchell claims he did when he was 22—and that "breeders" are "clueless morons."

Anybody who identifies as a "Nazi" of any sort should struggle to win converts. I probably wouldn't be writing about this manifesto except for the fact that it was amplified by the much-better-known Twitter account of author and former math professor Eliot Jacobson, which was then re-amplified by the even-better-known Twitter account of Berkeley climate scientist Zeke Hausfather.

And it does get at an anxiety that breeders and the breeder-curious alike feel at a time of chaotic climate change (not to mention wars, pandemics, mass shootings, megalomaniacal leaders and more): Should we really bring children into this world?

Jacobson's tweet quoted this line from Mitchell's post, one of the few that delivers anything like verifiable data: "[A] vegan electric car driver with one child will do a HELLUVALOT more damage to this planet, and cause countless more suffering to his or her fellow Earthlings, than a meat-eating, SUV-driving, jet-setting corporate executive with no children will ever do."

The climate scientist took issue. "This is utterly untrue (and reprehensible)," Hausfather tweeted, correctly. "It assumes we fail at decarbonizing our economies within our children's lifetimes. In reality, someone in the U.K. today emits half the emissions in a year that their grandparents did. In the U.S. we emit about a third less than our parents did."

It's actually a little better than that: U.S. per-capita carbon emissions fell 38% between 1973 and 2022 (the latest data available), according to Global Carbon Budget numbers crunched by the website Our World in Data. U.K. emissions fell about 60% in that time. China made up some of the difference, but the net effect was that global carbon intensity remained roughly flat for 15 years even as the global economy expanded by about 46%.

That is an extraordinary human accomplishment. And our political leaders have promised to do much more by eradicating emissions altogether in another generation. They aren't on track to achieve that yet. But little humans are growing less polluting and wasteful by the year.

Meanwhile, the hot anxiety these days is not a population bomb but a population bust, with forecasts calling for humanity to peak sometime this century and decline, maybe sharply, thereafter. This makes economists anxious but should be good news for environmentalists.

Of course, people can have plenty of good reasons not to reproduce. And conscientious parents can't deny fearing the impact their children could have on the planet, or vice versa. Polls and studies have shown climate change is a top factor in the decision not to have children. As my Bloomberg Opinion colleague Lara Williams has written, babies born today could see unimaginable economic and physical destruction in their lifetimes if we don't get global heating under control.

Climate scientists often gear studies toward finding out how the world will look in 2100, when our environment could be in full boil. That feels unimaginably distant to me, a person born in the 20th century. But if my daughter, who was born in 2013, lives as long as my grandmother, who died at 96, then she will experience every bit of it.

This can seem like a terrifying prospect—except for the fact that my daughter is already far better off than a child born in, say, 1913, when the Spanish Flu, Great Depression, World Wars I and II, the Holocaust and a Cold War were in store. Or 1313, when the Black Plague was around the corner. Or 513, not long before what historians agree was the worst year to be alive. Or 30,013 BCE, when just turning 30 was an accomplishment.

There has never been a perfect time to be a human baby, in other words. And yet we keep making them. That's partially down to base stuff like biology and ego, but optimism plays a big role. As a three-time breeder, I am biased. But I would like to think that teaching my children to care for their neighbors and their environment will help them build a better world. And polls consistently show young people are more concerned about the climate than their elders and more likely to take action.

In turn, adults can start improving the world for children right now, as my Bloomberg Opinion colleague Faye Flam has written. Millions are already suffering the effects of climate change, particularly the poor in both developed and developing countries, who unfairly bear the brunt of conditions they didn't create.

Telling people to simply stop having children is unrealistic at best and inhuman at worst. The best vision for the future treats both people and the planet with care and hope.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

A century of bad choices will haunt Earth for 100,000 years

By F.D. FLAM
Bloomberg Opinion

F.D. Flam is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering science. She is host of the "Follow the Science" podcast.

One of the many things to appreciate about our home planet is that buried in its layers of rock is a kind of time machine. These strata tell us so much about our tumultuous history of glaciers, volcanoes and asteroid impacts, as well as the plants and animals that lived, evolved and died over eons.

There's no doubt that future geologists or archaeologists will find a lot to interest them in the layer being laid down right now—weird materials from plastic to plutonium and dramatic changes in the nature of fossilized plants and animals. And yet recently, a group of scientists rejected a proposal to give our current epoch a new name: the Anthropocene, derived from the Greek word for human.

That's too bad. It's a fitting name and scientifically sound idea—and seems to have been thrown out over technicalities.

The approach of dividing deep time into segments began before scientists recognized how old our planet was. Geologists in the late 1700s and early 1800s saw layers of rock with different materials and sometimes very different embedded fossils. They noticed that these sometimes changed at abrupt boundaries. They were starting to consider that the Earth might be millions of years old, rather than thousands, but it wasn't until the 1950s that researchers established that our planet had been around for 4.5 billion years.

Scientists of the early 1800s started ordering these geologic ages in a nested system—the biggest units were eons, within which were eras, then periods, then epochs. Thanks to our love of dinosaurs and dinosaur movies, some people are familiar with the Jurassic and Cretaceous periods, each spanning tens of millions of years, the latter ending with a catastrophic asteroid impact.

Our current period is called the Quaternary, and within that are two epochs—the Pleistocene, which started 2.5 million years ago, and is known for periodic ice ages, and the Holocene, which started just 11,700 years ago and is known as a relatively stable, mild period that allowed humanity to spread around the globe.

Many of the previous periods are named after geographic locations where rock formations or fossils were identified. The name Anthropocene was proposed in 2000 by chemist Paul Crutzen, who won a Nobel Prize for his part in the discovery that human activities were threatening Earth's protective ozone layer.

In 2009, a team of scientists known as the Anthropocene Working Group set out to pick a date when the Holocene ended and the Anthropocene began. Should it start with the lead pollution of the Roman Empire, still captured in ice sheets? The colonization of the Americas and Australia, which completely changed those continents' biota? They eventually settled on 1952, when humanity added plutonium and other detectable byproducts of atomic bomb testing to our planet's surface.

The recency of that date seemed to be a sticking point for the scientists who rejected the Anthropocene concept. Some also argued that what we're calling the Anthropocene is not so much an epoch as an event—a rapid environmental change that might or might not kick off a new epoch. Some also thought it sounded too negative—in a *New York Times* opinion piece, Stephen Lezak, a professor at Cambridge and Oxford, wrote that the sends a pessimistic message that we're defining the era by "human-caused environmental disaster" and that "we won't be getting out of this mess any time soon."

But our influence doesn't have to be seen as pure destruction. It's downright optimistic to consider that someone might be doing science tens or hundreds of thousands of years in the future and want to study what we left behind.

This future scientist could be someone similar to Richard Alley, a professor at Penn State University and author of a book called The Two Mile Time Machine about drilling into Earth's ice caps to understand the planet's past.

Alley says that since the Anthropocene just got started and represents only a sliver on the top of Earth's crust, geologists don't need it for mapping purposes. But if you appreciate that the lines the early geologists drew through different eras represented upheavals, then what's going on now easily qualifies. "The Anthropocene very clearly is another one," he said.

Barring some spectacular technological intervention, the carbon dioxide that's come from burning fossil fuels could take 100,000 to 500,000 years to be reabsorbed by Earth, said Alley. In the meantime, the resulting glacier loss and sea level rise will affect people for thousands of years. So however long our species lasts, the influence of recent decades will reverberate through time.

Historically, people had trouble believing we could change something as powerful and vast as Earth's climate. And human beings couldn't have known, at first, that they were changing the planet's atmosphere.

Of course, we now know that humanity is leaving a big mark in the strata. What we don't know is how future scientists will judge us. Naming this era the Anthropocene could be seen as a positive statement about our species—that we had the foresight and self-awareness to recognize our growing impact on our vast but limited Earth.

Party politics and workforce matters

By JIM RAYPHAND
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jim Rayphand is director of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation and is a former executive director of the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems Inc.

It was no sooner that I began to grumble (in my head) over the recent roll out of new candidates for the U.S. delegate position and the nauseating nature of party politics than it was that I began to hear about this year's mini-shake up in our local version of the Grand Old Party (GOP). It seems like just yesterday too that some of the so-called stalwarts of CNMI's Democratic Party jumped ship and joined forces with the last election's Republicans. One of the problems with party politics in general is that at the core it's about erecting grandiose walls and make-believe borders between people of varying and, ideally, evolving beliefs. Put another way, it's a contrived method of dividing people at best and boxing them in at worst. We know or should know all too well the vitriol and divisive rhetoric that comes from party loyalists and their baffling devotion to their respective parties. The question—and I heard this asked about patriotism to our nation—is how can people claim to be patriots or in our case how can people claim to truly care about and want what's best for our Commonwealth when they can't stand half the people in it?

Personally, I appreciate mutinies against political parties, but that in and of itself does not tell us enough and while I applaud those who choose the road less travelled, they cannot lead if others won't follow. I think, in a nod to my friend and outgoing delegate, Congressman Kilili has done a masterful job in setting his course with our common wealth as his true north despite politics and more importantly in spite of himself. Thankfully others in leadership positions today are also transcending political party lines and putting service above self. In all seriousness, who gives a crap what political party you are, were or may have been? I get that it's a means or vehicle for garnering votes, but conduct once in office is all that really matters. Political party lines may as well be drawn in the shoreline sand at low tide for all I care.

I'm tempted to share my personal views on our current candidates for U.S. delegate here, but to be fair, I really don't know any of them very well. With the exception of a few direct business dealings and some mostly friendly exchanges of small-to-medium-size-talk with a couple of them, I only know them peripherally by way of mutual friends and/or their social media personas… the good, the bad and the ugly. In my generalized opinion, all are well-meaning, sometimes pleasant people like many others, but…well… frankly none of them are representative of me or the more red-necked, less polished citizens of the Commonwealth like myself. But I digress.

At issue for the CNMI, not unlike many other parts of the nation (although we certainly have a unique set of challenges here), is the matter of workforce development. Anyone who raises their hand presumably to help lead the CNMI into prosperity ought to hone in on workforce issues—it is not as simple as counting the number of jobs versus the number of workers. Education, workforce, industry and political leaders need to work together in a way that is responsive to skills and opportunity gaps through upskilling of incumbent workers, investing in infrastructure and meeting community business needs in real time to name just a few.

I had occasion to hear the acting U.S. Secretary of Labor, Julie Su, speak at the National Association of Workforce Boards conference last month wherein she spoke forcefully (with conviction, passion, etc., etc.) on workforce issues. "Opportunity should not depend on the zip code you live," she said. To paraphrase further, she exclaimed that we don't have a shortage of labor, but rather a shortage of quality jobs—I might qualify that to say a shortage of qualified workers is at issue as well. At the end of the day, the American worker needs to feel a sense of security and safety in knowing that he can support himself and provide for his family, but each of us still has a personal responsibility to be qualified in whatever job we hold. The same, by the way, is true for those who want to hold the seat in the Office of the People of the Northern Mariana Islands.

As for opportunities in the six-seven-o, the prospect of there being none is a frightening thought and not so far-fetched either—146 Saipan Hyatt associates might agree. Even scarier though is that opportunities may be abound, but we either cannot see, do not want or will not go after them for ourselves. The proverbial elephant in the room is a general lack of self-accountability, lackluster work ethics, and an unwillingness to get after what we need. Some of us prefer to lean back into our sense of entitlement and point fingers at or complain about those hustling to get by—this world does not owe any of us anything.

At the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, otherwise known as OVR, those of us who work here are daily witnesses to the balancing act between the availability of jobs, worker qualifications, and the perfectly imperfect nature of humans. With our mission to increase employment and promote independence for individuals with disabilities, we put federal funds at the disposal of eligible persons with disabilities to obtain, retain or maintain employment. Here's the thing though, we can only help those who want to help themselves—individual/personal choice dictates our outcomes.

It's easy to espouse concern over the broader notions of workforce needs—investing in education and training programs to leveraging technology, for example, should be foregone conclusions—and we need people working to make that happen. Ultimately though, when we're talking about workforce—or human capital—we should also be talking about the capacity work with others despite differences in opinion. As for the next U.S. delegate for the CNMI, "Leadership is influence" (John C. Maxwell) and, "The challenge of leadership is to: be strong, but not rude; be kind, but not weak; be bold, but not bully; be thoughtful, but not lazy; be humble, but not timid; be proud, but not arrogant; have humor, but without folly" (J. Rohn). And by the way, "If you think you are leading and turn around to see no one following you, then you are just taking a walk" (John C. Maxwell)

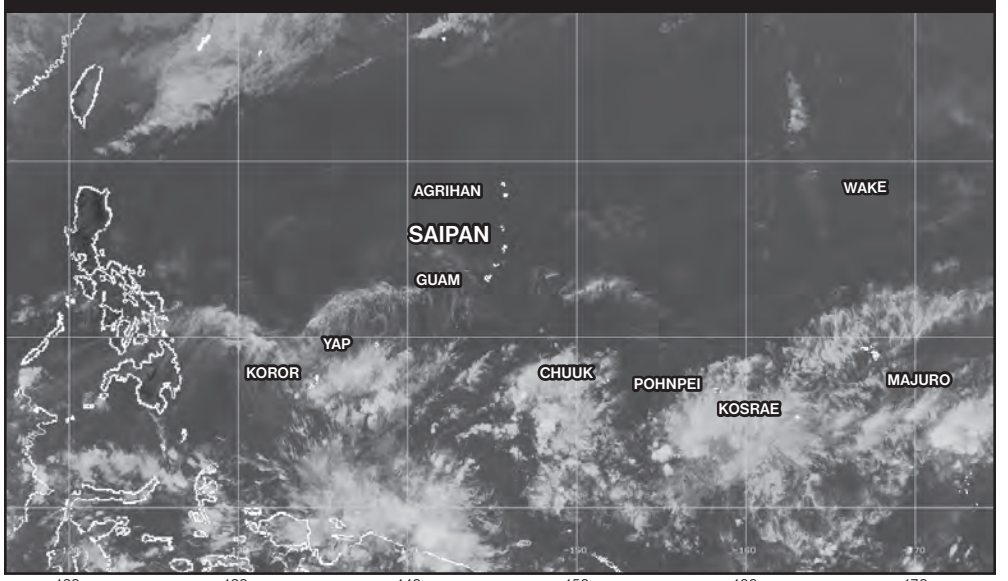
For more on the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation and/or funding assistance available to eligible individuals with disabilities seeking employment or independent living, please contact us at (670) 322-6537/8 or online at www.ovrgov.net.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. east winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. east winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. east winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.
87° 78°	87° 78°	87° 78°	87° 77°	87° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:17 AM THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Scatterometer shows the axis of a weak surface trough pushing west of the Marianas. Low-level convergence trailing behind this has generated patchy showers overnight, mainly across the CNMI. Yesterday`s rainfall totaled to 0.03 inches at the Guam airport and 0.65 inches at the Saipan airport, further illustrating the focus of showers over the CNMI. Based on satellite trends, remnants of a weak surface trough will keep spotty showers in the area through this afternoon. Model guidance indicates drier air moving into Tinian and Saipan by the afternoon, clearing up the skies a little sooner than Guam.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA	▲ ▼ °F	
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	89° / 79°
Palau	Light Rain Shower	86° / 81°
Yap	Cloudy	89° / 81°
Chuuk	Cloudy	89° / 81°
Pohnpei	Cloudy	87° / 81°
Kosrae	Light Rain	85° / 79°
Majuro	Cloudy	85° / 83°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:52 AM	6:35 PM
Saturday	5:52 AM	6:35 PM
Sunday	5:51 AM	6:35 PM
Monday	5:51 AM	6:35 PM
Tuesday	5:51 AM	6:36 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	1:58 AM	1:49 PM	-
Saturday	2:41 AM	2:47 PM	-
Sunday	3:22 AM	3:45 PM	-
Monday	4:04 AM	4:43 PM	-
Tuesday	4:47 AM	5:43 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE	▲ ▼ °F	
Auckland	Fair	64° / 57°
Beijing	Fair	81° / 51°
Hong Kong	Light Rain Shower	76° / 72°
Honolulu	Windy	83° / 71°
London	Mostly Cloudy	66° / 45°
Los Angeles	Sunny	87° / 62°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	98° / 82°
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	63° / 48°
Miami	Sunny	84° / 73°
New York	Cloudy	73° / 52°
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	70° / 55°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	72° / 52°
Busan	Mostly Cloudy	68° / 54°
Rome	Sunny	75° / 54°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	88° / 64°
San Francisco	Sunny	65° / 50°
Seoul	Sunny	74° / 50°
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	69° / 52°
Washington, DC	Fair	84° / 65°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
4:08 AM	High Tide	1.97
10:05 AM	Low Tide	1.18
2:44 PM	High Tide	1.67
9:43 PM	Low Tide	0.21

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 28, 2024

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:10AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	6:10AM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX77	4:05AM	7:00AM	1, 5

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA184	10:25PM	4:10AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

HX76	7:35PM	2:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Chamber to host 2nd Annual Economic Forum

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will be hosting its 2nd Annual Economic Forum, featuring a diverse panel of stakeholders for the purpose of analyzing, and sharing the economic conditions, challenges, and opportunities. The forum will take place on Thursday, May 16, from 9am to 12pm at the Taga Hall in World Resort Saipan.

The Economic Forum's opening speaker is U.S. District Court of the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona and keynote speaker is Northern Marianas College president Dr. Galvin Deleon Guerrero.

The wide variety of panelist include Dave Burger from Burger Comer Associates, Tracy Norita from the CNMI Department of Finance, Ray Yumul from the CNMI Department of Public Works, Chris Sablan from the CNMI Office of Planning and Development, Danny Aquino from the Commonwealth Bureau of Military Affairs, Leila Staffler from the CNMI Department of Labor, Gloria Cavanagh and Judy Torres from Marianas Visitors Authority, Ernie Galito from the Guam Chamber of Commerce, Philip Mendiola-Long from the Tinian Chamber of Commerce, Dave Guerrero from the Commonwealth Economic Development Authority, and lastly Matthew Guerrero from Hive Analytics.

The Chamber's Economic Forum offers a platform for stakeholders in the CNMI to come together, share forecasts, address challenges, and propose solutions to an audience composed of business leaders, government officials, and the general public.

The Chamber invites all members, and future members, to attend and hear from our esteemed panel speakers about the pressing economic issues that will influence growth in the Northern Mariana Islands.

Join the informative session with rates for Chamber members at $25 per person and future Chamber members at $35 per person, this rate will include light refreshments and beverages. Proceeds of the event will go toward the Chamber's annual scholarship program that supports our local youth achieve higher education.

For more information, contact the Saipan Chamber of Commerce at (670) 234-7150 or email us at contactus@saipanchamber.org.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit organization whose mission is to empower our enterprises as a resource, advocate, and connector for Saipan's private sector. Its vision is to create an island where businesses, families, and communities succeed as one. For more information or to learn how to become a Chamber member, visit online at www.saipanchamber.com, call 234-7150, or visit the 2nd Floor of the Marianas Business Plaza (Suite 201-A). ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-24-012

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF HEAVY-DUTY VEHICLES

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the supply and delivery of heavy-duty vehicles for its fleet in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-IFB-24-012, Supply and Delivery of Heavy-Duty Vehicles"*** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, ***no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on June 3, 2024*** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on May 13, 2024** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC's Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with copies to Steven Rodriguez, CUC's Water/Wastewater Division Manager via email at rodolfo.rodriguez@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC's Senior Administrative Technician at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids submitted shall become the property of CUC.

BETTINA G. TERLAJE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-24-018

CALCIUM HYPOCHLORITE POTABLE WATER DISINFECTION SYSTEMS, DELIVERY, INSTALLATION & MAINTENANCE AND SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF CALCIUM HYPOCHLORITE FOR SAIPAN and ROTA

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified vendors for the Supply, Delivery, Installation & Maintenance of Calcium Hypochlorite potable water disinfection systems and supply & delivery of calcium hypochlorite for Saipan and Rota, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The IFB package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies of the bid must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "**CUC-IFB-24-018, Calcium Hypochlorite Potable Water Disinfection Systems, Delivery, Installation, and Maintenance and Supply & Delivery of Calcium Hypochlorite for Saipan and Rota**" to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) May 9, 2024** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.

A *Bid Guarantee* of not less than fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations. All responses to this Invitation for Bids should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the bidder, awarded a contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on April 24, 2024** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Rodolfo Rodriguez, CUC Drinking Water & Wastewater Division Manager, via email address-rodolfo.rodriguez@cucgov.org and Christie L. Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Senior Administrative Technician via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

BETTINA G. TERLAJE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-24-016

Kailing Dr., Sihek Dr., and Tangan-Tangan Dr. Waterline Replacement

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the construction of the Kailing Dr., Sihek Dr., and Tangan-Tangan Dr. Waterline Replacement in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists of the replacement of the waterline at Sihek Dr. in Capital Hill and Tangan-Tangan Dr. in Papago with the installation of new 6-inch PVC distribution main including appurtenances, valves, fittings, fire hydrants, air relief valves, flush hydrants, pressure-reducing valve, and reconnection and relocation of existing service laterals to the right-of-way. The project also includes the construction of the waterline replacement along Kailing Dr. in Dandan. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

This project is funded by a grant from the United Sates of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **365 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **May 14, 2024 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "**CUC-IFB-24-016, Kailing Dr., Sihek Dr., and Tangan-Tangan Dr. Waterline Replacement**", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on June 4, 2024,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

A Bid Guarantee of *fifteen percent (15%)* of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract. Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.
This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 21, 2024,** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email at manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Ms. Alley Reyes, Project Engineer via email at alley.reyes@cucgov.org also to Mr. Mark Liban via email at mark.liban@cucgov.org and Ms. Christie L. Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Senior Administrative Technician via email at christie.sablan@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in said bid proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

BETTINA G. TERLAJE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Guam Loves to Read announces book distribution

GCC

The Literacy Navigators pose with Gov. Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, Guam Community College president Dr. Mary Okada, DYA Youth Development administrator Corrine Buendicho, and Guam Public Library System director Kris Seerengan at the GCC Learning Resource Center with the 7,125 books about to be distributed.

GCC

Literacy Navigators' Gabriella Leon Guerrero recounts her recent experience tutoring a 3rd grade boy.

The Guam Community College Literacy Navigators program held its inaugural Guam Loves to Read book distribution event on Friday, April 26, 2024, in the GCC Learning Resource Center on its Mangilao campus. Through the distribution, more than 7,000 resiliency memoirs and literature from local authors will be provided to the Department of Youth Affairs' Youth Resource Center, Guam Public Libraries, village youth centers, and the Guam Department of Education public school libraries, as part of the Literacy Navigators efforts to promote literacy among Guam youth.

In an effort to combat low reading and comprehension rates among Guam's youth, Guam Community College teamed up with Souder, Betances & Associates Inc. to establish the Guam Loves to Read program to support literacy. Prior to the start of the program, GCC partnered with Souder, Betances & Associates Inc., in an effort to continually educate and train GCC faculty, staff, and administrators on the importance of literacy, communication, and decision making. These "transformation" sessions were encouragement enough to seek funding to create the Guam Loves to Read program.

During the Fall semester of 2022, Souder, Betances & Associates Inc. held two Bootcamps, each running over the course of three weeks, to train GCC students as Literacy Navigators to tutor and guide elementary students reading literacy at Maria Ulloa, Juan M. Guerrero, Wettengel and PC Lujan Elementary Schools.

The Literacy Navigators initiative launched in the Fall semester of 2022. Promoting literacy is more than a catchphrase for the 15 young men and women who make up the Literacy Navigators program on Guam. In fact, these promising leaders have been making an impact in the lives of young students in the four of Guam's public elementary schools and the Guam public libraries. During Christmas and spring break, the Navigators held literacy events, and at the end of summer of 2023, the Navigators hosted reading events at the Guam Public Libraries.

In the aftermath of Typhoon Mawar, the plan to continue the tutoring at the elementary schools for the summer sessions had to be altered. A memorandum of understanding was created with the Guam Public Library System and the Navigators made a seamless transition to three branches of the Guam Public Library System: Barrigada, Yona, and Dededo.

More recently, the Navigators are currently implementing the objectives of an MOU with the Guam Department of Youth Affairs. Navigators provide services to the three community centers: Southern (Haya), Central (Kattan), and Northern (Lagu) Resource Centers.

The dire need for the Literacy Navigators program was articulated by Gabriella Leon Guerrero, who recounted her experience tutoring a 3rd grade boy. At that time his classmates were working on writing short stories, but the boy was unable to identify or read the letters of the alphabet because he did not have any resources during the pandemic. Gabriella worked with him one-on-one and by the end of the semester he was able to string letters together to make words.

Leon Guerrero's experience highlights the challenge of socially promoting students from one grade to the next, without the requisite skills to learn proficiently. Students promoted, without the basic knowledge needed to advance, only falls further behind with each successive year. The Literary Navigators program provides resources to help these students reach the required proficiency to advance.

The Literacy Navigators joined Gov. Lourdes A. Leon Guerrero, GCC president Dr. Mary Okada, DYA Youth Development administrator Corrine Buendicho, and Guam Public Library System director Kris Seerengan at the GCC Learning Resource Center, to showcase the 7,125 books to be distributed. The program and the books are funded by the Literacy Navigators grant provided through the Governor's Education Assistance and Youth Empowerment Grant Program. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 |
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmiports.com

INVITATION FOR BID
PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-009-24

SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 29, 2024: 2:00 P.M.

"REMOVAL/DISPOSAL OF EXISTING REIL LIGHTS AND REPLACING WITH FOUR (4) BRAND NEW REIL LIGHTS"

THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE COMMONWONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) ACCOUNTING OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING APRIL 26, 2024. AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF $100.00 SHALL BE PAID TO CPA BEFORE A BIDDER MAY OBTAIN THE BID PACKAGE. PAYMENTS SHALL BE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "REMOVAL/DISPOSAL OF EXISTING REIL LIGHTS AND REPLACING WITH FOUR (4) BRAND NEW REIL LIGHTS **(IFB-008-24)**" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., MAY 29, 2024. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

LEO B. TUDELA DATE: _____
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES (PHS)
MATERNAL, INFANT, CHILD & ADOLESCENT HEALTH PROGRAMS (MICAH)
TITLE V MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH SERVICES

"ADDENDUM"
Correction (From RFP24-CHCC/PHS/MICAH-010 to RFP24-CHCC/PHS/MICAH-013)
SUBMISSION DEADLINE: May 13, 2024 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)
RFP24-CHCC/PHS/MICAH-013
"NEED ASSESSMENT FOR MICAH PROGRAM"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.HEALTH]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO REQUEST **FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA **/S/ CORA P. ADA**
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER **DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY**

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERMNT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: DPW24-RFP No.: 42400082

SUBMISSION DATE: May 23, 2024 TIME: 10:00 A.M.
"Provide Feasibility Study and Preliminary Design of the Proposed Utility Pedestal at Smiling Cove Marina, Saipan"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, LOCATED ON SECOND FLOOR, OLEAI JOETEN COMMERCIAL CENTER, SAN JOSE, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The project package will be available on or after **April 19, 2024** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan.

There will be a Pre-Proposal Conference for this project on **May 07, 2024, 9:00 a.m. ChST.,** at the DLNR Conference Room, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **4:30 p.m. ChST., on May 15, 2024** to Mr. Sylvan Q. Igisomar, Secretary of DLNR, Saipan. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/RAY N. YUMUL **/S/ GERAILDINE T. CRUZ**
Secretary, DPW **Acting Director, Division of Procurement Services**

ANNE MARIE DATUIN NAVARRETE
P.O. Box 501433, Saipan MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 483-7308
Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THECOMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE:	]	Civil Action No.
	]	24 - 0111-CV
ESTATE OF ALEXANDER ADAN NAVARRETE	]	**NOTICE OF HEARING FOR PUBLICATION**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Anne Marie Datuin Navarrete has filed a Petition to Appoint Administratrix and for Letters of Administration upon the Estate of Alexander Adan Navarrete, deceased and that the said Petition will be heard by the Court on Thursday, June 6, 2024 at 10:00 am before Judge Joseph N. Camacho.

Notice is also given to all heirs of and persons having claims against the Estate of Alexander Adan Navarrete, deceased, and to all persons claiming an interest in said Estate, that they shall file such claims with the Clerk of this Court within sixty (60) days from the first publication of this Notice. Copies of such claims should be provided to the petitioner, Anne Marie Datuin Navarrete with postal address at P.O. Box 501433, Saipan MP 96950. All claims not so filed shall be forever barred.

DATED: April 30, 2024

/s/ **Judge Joseph Norita Camacho**
Associate Judge

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

JESUS BASA PANGELINAN	]	FCD-DI CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-0154
Petitioner,	]	
vs.	]	**SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION**
JULANEE PANYAYAO PANGELINAN	]	
Respondent,	]	

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is on file with the Court, within thirty (30) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Petitioner whose address is P.O. BOX 503767 SAIPAN MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this Summons, Judgement by Default may be taken against you for relief in the Complaint.

Dated this 16th day of April, 2024.

/s/
Clerk of Court

Name: Patricia Wol and Sylvestre Wol
Address: P.O. Box 505060
Phone: (670) 322-4262

Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re the Matter of the Petition for the Appointment of General Guardianship for: J.J.B.R. Minor Child(ren)	]	FCD-GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 24-0151 **NOTICE OF HEARING**
By:	]	
Patricia and Sylvestre Wol Petitioner(s)	]	

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on July 8, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in Courtroom 217A before Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

Dated this 18th day of April, 2024.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court
/s/_____
By: Deputy Clerk of Court

Business

New US sanctions vs. Russia target weapons development

WASHINGTON (AP)—The United States on Wednesday imposed new sanctions on hundreds of companies and people tied to Russia's weapons development program, more than a dozen Chinese entities accused of helping Moscow find workarounds to earlier penalties, and individuals linked to the death of Kremlin opposition leader Alexei Navalny.

The actions by the departments of Treasury and State target Russia's military-industrial base, chemical weapons programs and people and companies in third countries that help Russia acquire weapons components as its invasion of Ukraine has entered its third year.

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said the action "will further disrupt and degrade Russia's war efforts by going after its military industrial base and the evasion networks that help supply it."

» Also ban on uranium imports for nuclear power

The Senate, meanwhile, gave final approval to legislation barring imports of Russian uranium, boosting U.S. efforts to disrupt Russia's war in Ukraine. Democratic President Joe Biden is expected to sign the bill into law.

About 12% of the uranium used to produce electricity at U.S. nuclear power plants is imported from Russia, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

A spokesperson for the National Security Council said Wednesday that Biden shares lawmakers' concerns about U.S. reliance on Russia for low-enriched uranium to support its domestic nuclear fleet.

Included in the administration's announcement are importers of cotton cellulose and nitrocellulose, which are used to produce gunpowder, rocket propellants and other explosives. The penalties also target Russian government entities and people tied to Russia's chemical and biological weapons programs, companies related to Russia's natural gas construction projects and three workers at the penal colony where Navalny died.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has railed against earlier rounds of U.S. and Western penalties, claiming they are "illegitimate sanctions" on his country.

A group of 16 targets in China and Hong Kong, most of which are related to Russian procurement workarounds, are named by the Biden administration.

Yellen traveled to Guangzhou and Beijing last month to warn Chinese officials that they "must not provide material support for Russia's war and that they will face significant consequences if they do."

China has said it is not providing Russia with arms or military assistance, although Beijing has maintained robust economic connections with Moscow, alongside India and other countries, as the West imposes sanctions.

Companies in China, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Slovakia, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates were accused of helping Russia acquire technology and equipment from abroad. The penalties aim to block them from using the U.S. financial system and bar American citizens from dealing with them.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Lawsuit against Meta asks if Facebook users have right to control their feeds using external tools

Do social media users have the right to control what they see—or don't see—on their feeds? A lawsuit filed against Facebook parent Meta Platforms Inc. is arguing that a federal law often used to shield internet companies from liability also allows people to use external tools to take control of their feed—even if that means shutting it off entirely. The Knight First Amendment Institute at Columbia University filed a lawsuit Wednesday against Meta Platforms on behalf of an Amherst professor who wants to release a tool that enables users to unfollow all the content fed to them by Facebook's algorithm. The tool, called Unfollow Everything 2.0, is a browser extension that would let Facebook users unfollow friends, groups and pages and empty their newsfeed—the stream of posts, photos and videos that can keep them scrolling endlessly. The idea is that without this constant, addicting stream of content, people might use it less. If the past is any indication, Meta will not be keen on the idea. A U.K. developer, Luis Barclay, released a similar tool, called Unfollow Everything, but he took it down in 2021, fearing a lawsuit after receiving a cease-and-desist letter and a lifetime Facebook ban from Meta, then called Facebook Inc. With Wednesday's lawsuit, Ethan Zuckerman, a professor at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, is trying to beat Meta to the legal punch to avoid getting sued by the social media giant over the browser extension. ***(AP)***

Consumer groups push Congress to uphold automatic refunds for airline passengers

Consumer groups are pushing Congress to uphold automatic refunds for airline passengers whose flights are canceled or delayed for several hours. Just last week, the Transportation Department announced a rule requiring airlines to pay quick and automatic refunds. President Joe Biden touted the rule, posting on X this week, "It's time airline passengers got the cash refunds they're owed, without having to jump through hoops." But eight words in a 1,069-page bill that the Senate began debating Wednesday would keep the burden for refunds on consumers. The bill says airlines must pay refunds only "upon written or electronic request of the passenger." Consumer advocates say travelers will lose money without automatic refunds. "How many average air travelers know what the (refund) rules are? How many of them know how to go about filing a claim?" said William McGee, a consumer advocate at the American Economic Liberties Project, a group skeptical of large corporations, including airlines. "The percentages are so low that the airlines sit on a tremendous amount of money that is never refunded because nobody asks." ***(AP)***

FROM OUR HEARTS TO YOURS

Susana Aquiningoc Villagomez Guerrero

Fondly known as "Chana"

February 23, 1938 - April 17, 2024

Faith, Hope and ***Love*** are the virtues of our Christian lives, and we do our utmost best to live in them daily.

As we begin to live our lives and learn to cope with the absence of our Dearly Beloved ***†SUSANA VILLAGOMEZ GUERRERO "CHANA",*** we, her family, are sincerely and forever grateful to our many families and friends who stood by us through the most difficult time of our lives. While the pain of loss is hard to endure, the outpouring of support and prayers, and most of all the unconditional love which embraced us, has given us strength and comfort in the knowledge that our ***Dearly Beloved †CHANA*** is now resting peacefully in God's care.

Your presence at the daily masses of intention and most especially on her funeral day deeply touched our hearts and assured us of how much our ***Dearly Beloved †CHANA*** is loved and, in her silent and special way, is whispering her appreciation.

To one and all, dangkulo na Si Yu'us Ma'ase and as we part our ways, we fervently pray that God's graces and blessings will forever be upon us and may each awakening day bring us closer to God and be thankful for all that we are blessed with and live each day for the greater glory of God.

Jose Iglesias Guerrero,
children, grandchildren and families

Nation

Biden keeps quiet as Gaza protesters and police clash on college campuses

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden is staying mum about student protests and police crackdowns as Republicans try to turn campus unrest over the war in Gaza into a campaign cudgel against Democrats.

Tension at colleges and universities has been building for days as some demonstrators refuse to remove encampments and administrators turn to law enforcement to clear them by force, leading to clashes that have seized attention from politicians and the media.

But Biden's last public comment came more than a week ago, when he condemned "antisemitic protests" and "those who don't understand what's going on with the Palestinians."

The White House, which has been peppered with questions by reporters, has gone only slightly further than the president. On Wednesday, press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said Biden is "monitoring the situation closely," and she said some demonstrations had stepped over a line that separated free speech from unlawful behavior.

"Forcibly taking over a building," such as what happened at Columbia University in New York, "is not peaceful," she said. "It's just not."

Biden has never been much for protesting. His career in elected office began as a county official when he was only 28 years old, and he's always espoused the political importance of compromise over zealousness.

As college campuses convulsed with anger over the Vietnam War in 1968, Biden was in law school at Syracuse University.

"I'm not big on flak jackets and tie-dyed shirts," he said years later. "You know, that's not me."

Despite the White House's criticism and Biden's refusal to heed protesters' demands to cut off U.S. support for Israel, Republicans blame Democrats for the disorder and have used it as a backdrop for press conferences.

"We need the president of the United States to speak to the issue and say this is wrong," House Speaker Mike Johnson, a Louisiana Republican, said on Tuesday. "What's happening on college campuses right now is wrong."

Johnson visited Columbia with other members of his caucus last week. House Republicans sparred with protesters while speaking to the media at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., on Wednesday.

Former President Donald Trump, his party's presumptive nominee, also criticized Biden in an interview with Sean Hannity on Fox News.

"Biden has to do something," he said. "Biden is supposed to be the voice of our country, and it's certainly not much of a voice. It's a voice that nobody's heard."

He repeated his criticisms on Wednesday during a campaign event in Waukesha, Wisconsin.

"The radical extremists and far-left agitators are terrorizing college campuses, as you possibly noticed," Trump said. "And Biden's nowhere to be found. He hasn't said anything."

Kate Berner, who served as deputy communications director for Biden's campaign in 2020, said Republicans already tried the same tactic four years ago during protests over George Floyd's murder by a police officer.

"People rejected that," she said. "They saw that it was just fearmongering. They saw that it wasn't based in reality."

Trump says he'll use National Guard to deport migrants

WASHINGTON (AP)—Donald Trump says he'd use the National Guard as part of efforts to deport millions of migrants across the country if he's reelected, signaling that he's doubling down on anti-immigration rhetoric that fueled his previous rise to power.

Trump's comments came during a lengthy in-person and telephone interview with Time magazine earlier this month. The accompanying story was published online on Tuesday.

Trump didn't say how exactly he'd carry out the deportation operations and what role the National Guard would play in them. Trump, the presumptive Republican nominee for president, said he wasn't opposed to using active duty military if needed but that he thought the National Guard would do the job.

"If I thought things were getting out of control, I would have no problem using the military," he said. "We have to have safety in our country. We have to have law and order in our country. And whichever gets us there, but I think the National Guard will do the job."

U.S. military forces—both National Guard and active duty—have historically been used at the border to back up immigration personnel. However, using National Guard forces, or active-duty military, to help directly with deporting migrants, especially in the interior of the country, would be a drastic escalation of their use in the immigration sphere and would likely run into legal challenges.

During Trump's first term, the Department of Homeland Security considered using National Guard troops to round up unauthorized immigrants but the plans ultimately never came to fruition.

Presidents have used troops, often National Guard forces, to bolster border security in different ways. President George W. Bush called on National Guard troops to bolster security along the southwestern border in "Operation Jumpstart," while "Operation Phalanx" under President Barack Obama also used National Guard troops in similar ways.

Presidents Joe Biden and Donald Trump have also used active duty troops and National Guard forces to bolster border security and assist with immigration-related tasks.

But those forces at the border have been used in specific, restricted ways like data entry, surveillance or warehouse support or to provide logistical support in ways that don't interact directly with migrants and are designed to free up immigration personnel to do their jobs.

When it comes to finding and removing people from the country, that's generally the purview of the Enforcement and Removals Operations arm of Immigration and Customs Enforcement. They identify, arrest, detain and remove people who have been determined to not have the right to stay in the country.

This can often be a lengthy and expensive process because removals are often done by airplane and because many countries don't agree to take back migrants from their countries.

World

AMID RUSSIAN ADVANCE

Ukrainian soldiers say rear defensive lines barely exist

KHARKIV, Ukraine (AP)—During pitched battles with far better-armed Russian forces, Ukrainian soldier Batyar's unit has few options.

Devastating Russian aerial glide bombs that can drop up to 1.5 tons of explosives out of range of most of Ukraine's air defenses are gnawing away at his men's positions in a new tactic.

Yet, to retreat carries no promise of safety—the rear defensive lines meant to give them cover barely exist, he said.

Lack of ammunition is forcing the outnumbered Ukrainian soldiers to pull back, one village after another, including three surrendered Sunday, as intense fighting roils the countryside surrounding Avdiivka nearly three months after the strategic city fell to Russia.

"It's necessary to increase the pace of building fortifications … so that when we retreat, we will retreat to a prepared position," said Batyar, a unit commander who gave only his military call sign in line with brigade protocols. "These fortifications are not enough."

AP

Anti-tank systems known as "dragon teeth" are seen in the field close to the Russian border in the Kharkiv region, Ukraine, on Wednesday, April 17, 2024.

Facing an outcry after Avdiivka's fall, Ukraine is rushing to build concrete-fortified trenches, foxholes, firing positions and other barricades on the front lines. But relentless Russian shelling, lack of equipment and crippling bureaucracy plague construction across the vast 1,000-kilometer (600-mile) front, even as a new Russian offensive looms, according to a dozen Ukrainian soldiers, government officials and construction company directors interviewed by The Associated Press.

The much awaited aid package passed by the U.S. Congress last month is expected to help Ukraine close the firepower gap. But until replenishments arrive, which could take weeks, Russia will continue to exploit Ukraine's weaknesses.

Ukraine has allocated nearly 38 billion hryvnias ($960 million) to build an extensive fortification network this year. Soldiers across the front line maintain that should have happened last year, when Ukraine had the upper hand in the fighting, not in the heat of battle now.

Highway collapse in China kills 36 people, sends more than 20 cars down steep slope

BEIJING (AP)—A section of a highway collapsed after heavy rains in a mountainous area in southern China, sending cars tumbling down a slope and leaving at least 36 people dead, authorities said Thursday.

The Meizhou city government said that 23 vehicles have been found after a 17.9-meter (58.7-foot) long section of the highway gave way about 2 a.m. on Wednesday. Thirty other people had injuries, none of them life-threatening, a government statement said.

The search effort was complicated by steady rain, gravel and soil coming down at the site, posing some risk to the workers, a fire department official told Chinese media.

Rescue teams divided the area into 10 grids and searched with dogs and life-detecting devices, the report said. Excavators and cranes were also brought in to help.

The collapse left a barren scar down a steep slope in an otherwise verdant green forested area. Witnesses told local media they heard a loud noise and saw a wide hole open up behind them after driving past the section just before it collapsed.

Video and photos in local media showed smoke and fire at the scene, with a highway guardrail leaning down into the flames. A pile of blackened cars could be seen on the slope leading down from the highway.

A photo later showed a construction crane lowering a mangled car to the road surface, near three other similarly wrecked vehicles. All appeared to have been burned out.

Over 56 centimeters (22 inches) of rain has fallen in the past four weeks in the county where the roadway collapsed, more than four times as much as last year. Some villages in Meizhou flooded in early April, and the city had seen heavy rain in recent days.

Parts of Guangdong province have seen record rains and flooding in the past two weeks, as well as hail. A tornado killed five people in Guangzhou, the provincial capital, last weekend.

Heavy rain and flooding pose a special risk to mountain roadways and highway bridges because of erosion, debris flows and landslides. China has massively expanded its infrastructure in recent years, adding more than 1 million highway bridges, the world's largest network of high speed trains and scores of new airports.

In the rush to build, flaws in design and construction methods have frequently come to light, while regular inspections and maintenance are sometimes given short shrift. Dozens have died in recent years in tunnel collapses and floods, including 14 who drowned in subway trains in the central city of Zhenzhou during massive flooding that killed around 300 people.

Life & Style

Ethan, Maya Hawke have running joke about 'Wildcat'

AP
This image released by Oscilloscope Laboratories shows writer-director Ethan Hawke, left, and his daughter, actor Maya Hawke, on the set of "Wildcat."

By LINDSEY BAHR
AP FILM WRITER

Ethan Hawke and his daughter Maya Hawke have a running joke about their Flannery O'Connor movie.

"Wildcat," which Ethan directed and Maya stars in as O'Connor, was made with complete sincerity. It's a deeply creative investigation into the Southern Catholic novelist and short story writer behind "A Good Man is Hard to Find" that dips in and out of both her imagination and her real life.

O'Connor died at age 39, in 1964, of lupus. She won the National Book Award posthumously, in 1972. Though celebrated for her prose and sharp social satire, in recent years she's also come under scrutiny for racism in private correspondence and her treatment of race in her works. It was territory that was both thorny and rich with possibility. But the Hawkes can't help but laugh about it too, imagining the pitch to a major studio or streamer.

Here's how it might go:

Maya: "We want to make a movie about an unfortunate-looking woman with lupus. She struggles with her faith and has no boyfriends."

Ethan: "She's a really brilliant writer but she's completely unsuccessful."

Maya: "Also recently her mild success has been has been completely disbarred and people are mostly interested in removing her from the canon these da ys. What do you think?"

Ethan: "Sounds like the makings of a commercial, hit movie!"

"Wildcat" (in select theaters Friday), if it isn't evident, was made independently. Both Hawkes drew heavily on friends they've worked with over the years to round out the cast. Laura Linney, Liam Neeson, Steve Zahn and Vincent D'Onofrio are just several of the names in the big ensemble.

Maya had the idea for a movie around the time she was deciding to commit her life to acting. Despite having two successful actors as parents, including mother Uma Thurman, she'd hesitated primarily because she loved literature so much. If she went to Juilliard, she worried that she'd have to choose. So, in a mild act of rebellion, Maya decided to audition not with a monologue from the theatrical canon, but with one she'd reworked from O'Connor's "Prayer Journal" with her dad on his breaks while filming "The Magnificent Seven."

George W. Bush's portraits of veterans are heading to Disney World

LAKE BUENA VISTA, Fla. (AP)—Walt Disney World will host dozens of portraits of service members and veterans from the nation's Painter-in-Chief.

The George W. Bush Institute will loan the 60 color portraits by the former U.S. president to the Florida theme park resort. The paintings of service members and veterans will be displayed for a year at Epcot's American Adventure pavilion starting next month.

Accompanying each painting is a veteran biography written by the former president. The exhibit also will include information and resources created to support veterans and their families.

"My hope is that those who have the opportunity to see this special exhibit will also remember the leadership, service and sacrifice behind each of the heroes painted and the unique challenges our servicemembers and their families face when transitioning out of the military," said Ken Hersh, president and CEO of the George W. Bush Presidential Center.

AP
This photo provided by the George W. Bush Presidential Center shows former President George W. Bush working on a portrait of service members and veterans.

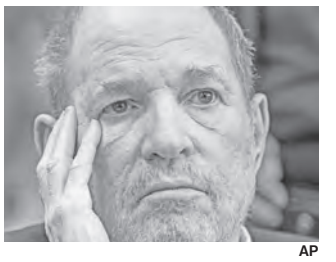
Prosecutors seek September retrial for Harvey Weinstein after his rape conviction was tossed

NEW YORK (AP)—Prosecutors asked for a September retrial for Harvey Weinstein during a hearing Wednesday in Manhattan, the disgraced movie mogul's first court appearance since his 2020 rape conviction was overturned by an appeals court last week.

One of Weinstein's accusers, Jessica Mann, was in the courtroom Wednesday and is prepared to testify again, Assistant District Attorney Nicole Blumberg told the judge.

The former actor wants everyone to know that the defendant "may have power" but "she has the truth," she said.

"We believe in this case and will be retrying this case," Blumberg added.



AP
Harvey Weinstein appears at Manhattan criminal court for a preliminary hearing on Wednesday, May 1, 2024 in New York.

Judge Curtis Farber set a May 29 pretrial court date, with the aim of going to trial some time after Labor Day.

Weinstein, wearing a navy blue suit, was seated in a wheelchair and didn't address the court but smiled and shook hands with supporters in the gallery.

The 72-year-old, who has cardiac issues and diabetes, has been in a hospital since his return to the city jail system Friday from an upstate prison.

In court, his attorney, Arthur Aidala, said he has no concern about his client's mental abilities, describing Weinstein as "sharp as a tack. As sharp as he ever was."

Aidala said his client wants to prove his innocence: "It's a new trial, it's a new day and his life is on the line."

Woman's lies and sexting put marriage on the brink

DEAR ABBY: My sister "Sandy" divorced her husband 15 years ago. Her oldest son, "Nick," has never gotten over it. He's 30 now and has treated her badly over the years. He not only vandalized her home but has also said horrible things to her. She maintained a relationship with him despite his behavior, supporting him emotionally and sometimes financially.

Sandy has been engaged to her long-term boyfriend for three years, but Nick is hostile toward him. He calls him names, denigrates his faith and refuses to accept him as part of the family. Her fiance has grown tired of this treatment, and I'm afraid it may cause their breakup.

My sister doesn't want to lose her son over this, and everyone in our family, including her other children, loves Nick. What can she do?

SEES DYSFUNCTION IN NEW MEXICO

DEAR SEES: What your sister should do depends upon what's more important to her. If losing her fiance to maintain a relationship with her disrespectful and unloving son is paramount, she should end their romantic relationship. Of course, it won't change her son's deplorable behavior, and she will have to accept that. OR she can decide to go on with her life and possibly marry her gentleman friend. The rest of the family can continue to love Nick as much as they wish, and everyone will be happier.

P.S. I can't help but wonder why this letter came from you and not from your sister. The most unwelcome advice is that which is unsolicited.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY: As far as I'm concerned, my marriage is over. For the past 10 years or more, my wife has recklessly spent our joint savings and my pension savings, taken out credit cards in my name without my knowledge and put us through bankruptcy. We now have over $50k in debt with nothing left. She has also been having affairs on the side.

I can't trust a word she says or continue to live like this. Each time, she has begged for forgiveness and promised not to do it anymore -- until she does it a week later. We agreed to separate a month ago, but now she realizes there's not going to be any regular income from me and wants to stay married. When I told her no, she attacked me physically.

I don't want the police involved. I have a daughter on the spectrum. Although she's a young adult, she will blame me, and what relationship I have with her will be destroyed. I have been advised to not move out, as that can be seen by the courts as abandoning my property to her. Please advise, Abby.

END OF THE ROAD

DEAR END: The best advice I can offer you is to tell this story to the best divorce lawyer you can find (interview SEVERAL) and follow that person's advice TO THE LETTER. If you must remain on the property, buy a sturdy lock for your bedroom door, and use it. If your wife becomes violent again, DO involve the police, and get out of there as soon as you safely can.

■■■■

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

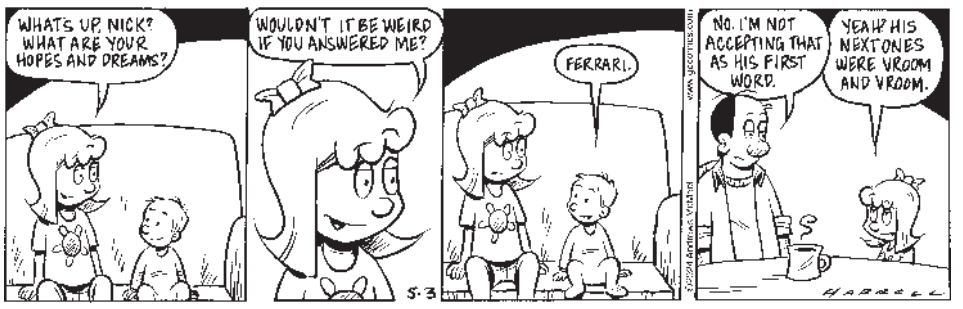
I SIGNED UP TO PLAY BASEBALL EVERY RECESS, AND I DON'T EVEN LIKE BASEBALL THAT MUCH.
I MEAN, IT'S FUN PLAYING BASEBALL WITH JUST YOU, BECAUSE WE BOTH GET TO PITCH, BAT, RUN AND CATCH ALL AT ONCE. WE GET TO DO EVERYTHING.
MOSTLY WE JUST ARGUE OVER THE RULES WE MAKE UP! THAT'S THE PART I LIKE!
BUT THIS WILL BE WITH TEAMS AND ASSIGNED POSITIONS AND AN UMPIRE! IT'S BORING PLAYING IT THE REAL WAY!
DO YOU EVEN KNOW HOW TO PLAY THE REAL WAY?
SEE, THAT'S ANOTHER PROBLEM! SUPPOSE THEY MAKE ME A HALFBACK. CAN I TACKLE THE SHORTSTOP OR NOT?

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

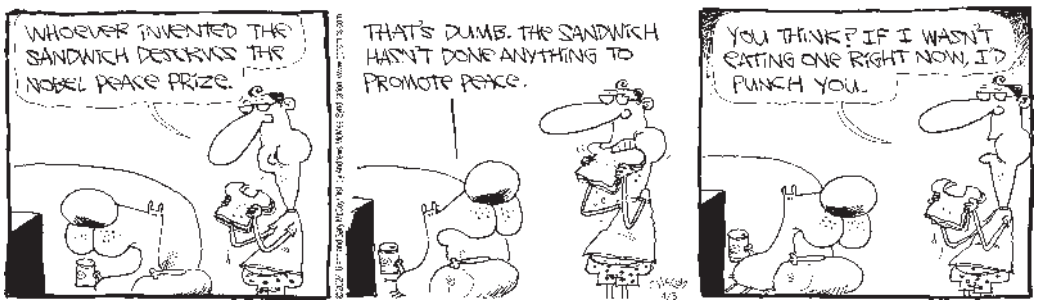
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


WHAT'S UP, NICK? WHAT ARE YOUR HOPES AND DREAMS?
WOULDN'T IT BE WEIRD IF YOU ANSWERED ME?
FERRARI.
NO. I'M NOT ACCEPTING THAT AS HIS FIRST WORD.
YEAH! HIS NEXT ONES WERE VROOM AND VROOM.

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


WHOEVER INVENTED THE SANDWICH DESERVES THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE.
THAT'S DUMB. THE SANDWICH HASN'T DONE ANYTHING TO PROMOTE PEACE.
YOU THINK? IF I WASN'T EATING ONE RIGHT NOW, I'D PUNCH YOU.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

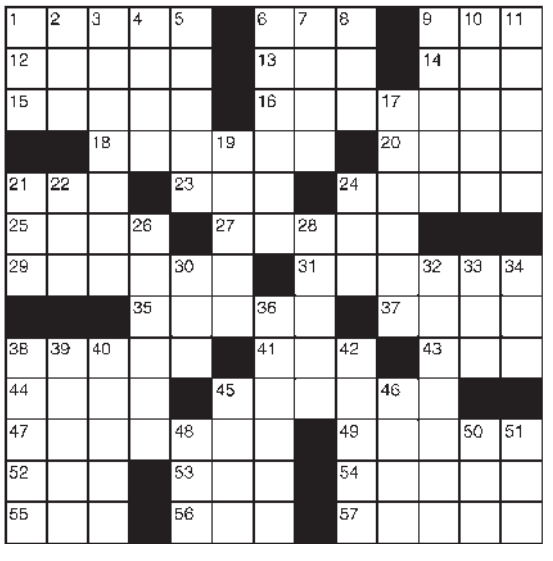
ACROSS
1 "Be silent," in scores
6 Pledge
9 Old map letters
12 Sleepy mammal
13 A Gershwin brother
14 Menlo Park monogram
15 Tubular pasta
16 Emmy-winning actress Jane
18 Body art
20 Chaplin of "Game of Thrones"
21 Punk rock offshoot
23 Put on TV
24 Senate broadcaster
25 "The Bourne Identity" director Liman
27 — Park, Colorado
29 Hue and cry
31 Folk singer Pete
35 Inventor Nikola
37 — gin fizz
38 Loathe
41 Canine greeting
43 Moreover
44 Canine greeting
45 Curator's workplace
47 Nickname for The Beatles
49 New stem
52 City area, for short
53 JFK info
54 Guided trips
55 Mormon church, for short
56 — Moines
57 Lovable ogre

DOWN
1 Recipe abbr.
2 Hearty quaff
3 Outline
4 Sicilian spouter
5 Eighth Greek letter
6 Tennis players' headgear
7 Popular cookie
8 Method
9 Brownstone feature
10 Place for sweaters?
11 Showed again
17 Forest growths
19 Levels
21 College URL ender
22 Swab the deck
24 Middling grade
26 Disembarked
28 Despots
30 — Lingus
32 "Allure" alternative
33 Ages and ages
34 Wine selection
36 Dern and Linney
38 Terrible
39 Plank
40 "The Natural" character Roy
42 Big celebrations
45 TV remote button
46 "Oops!"
48 British ref. work
50 Tram load
51 "For shame!"

Solution time: 25 mins.

S	I	I	D	■	I	R	S	■	S	C	A	T
L	I	M	E	■	I	O	N	■	O	R	C	A
A	M	A	I	■	T	A	C	■	O	A	H	U
P	A	N	A	M	A	■	B	O	N	N	E	T
■	■	■	Y	F	N	■	■	I	F	N	■	■
T	A	B	S	■	I	S	C	A	R	I	O	T
S	I	R	■	■	F	F	C	■	■	F	R	R
P	R	O	P	O	S	A	L	■	E	S	A	U
■	■	■	W	O	O	■	O	H	M	■	■	■
D	A	N	S	O	N	■	N	I	C	E	S	T
E	L	I	S	■	O	P	I	■	E	L	L	A
E	P	E	E	■	O	F	E	■	E	M	I	R
R	O	S	S	■	N	O	S	■	S	S	T	S

Yesterday's answer 5-3



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Christina Hendricks, 49; Kristin Lehman, 52; Amy Ryan, 56; Frankie Valli, 90.

Happy Birthday: The green light means go; don't waste time. Put your plans in motion and don't look back. Concentrate on physical fitness, love and enjoying life to the fullest. Opportunities are apparent, but it's up to you to set your sights on what you want and make it happen. Change begins with you, so don't dawdle when you have plenty to gain. Trust your instincts. Your numbers are 4, 18, 24, 29, 31, 36, 44.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Aggressive action will ward off conflicts. Say what's on your mind and move along. You have to please yourself before taking on the task of making others happy. Focus on changes that make your life easier, and continue until you feel content. ✪✪✪s

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Voice your opinion, participate, make a difference and share your feelings with someone you admire, and plans will transpire. Don't allow outside influences to interfere when what you want to achieve requires your energy and undivided attention. Keep the peace and avoid volatile situations. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Refrain from displaying your plans or actions. Work behind the scenes until you master what you are trying to achieve. If you prematurely launch your next move, someone will judge you unfairly. Protect against interference and false information. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* What you do counts. Size up whatever situation you find yourself facing and be the one to make a difference. Trust your insight, and you'll come up with a plan that turns you into a leader. You'll make a lasting impression on someone of interest. ✪✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Look around; know your environment and what you must consider before you proceed. Take the time to study your options and formulate a plan. Observe what others do and say, but avoid following in their footsteps. Do your own thing and learn as you go. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Have fun. Look for entertainment that puts a sparkle in your eye and encourages you to be a participant. What you learn from the people you encounter will brighten your day and trigger your imagination. Love, romance and happiness are favored. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Base your conclusions on finance, fact and familiarity. If you jump impulsively, you'll have to backtrack. Completion is the objective, so don't dawdle when action is necessary. A discussion with someone close to you will make or break your relationship. Choose your words wisely. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Make unique plans, try something new, change your routine and challenge yourself to do something you keep putting off. Give yourself the benefit of the doubt, and you won't be disappointed in what you achieve. Explore the possibilities and make a move. Don't take a physical risk. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* A change of environment will help distance you from despair. Don't stick around where you face ridicule and criticism. Get out and about, do something physical to work off energy and surround yourself with people who enrich your life instead of tearing it apart. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Don't sidle up to someone who questions your lifestyle. Get involved with people who share your concerns and enjoy the same pastimes as you. There is comfort in familiarity and ease that comes with knowing you aren't going to face conflict when you should receive support. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Don't aid a physical challenge. An intelligent gesture will deter anyone who tries to give you a hard time. Don't dispute a domestic change; if it saves money and eases your mind, it's worthwhile. Put your energy into improving yourself and your lifestyle. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Care less about what others think or do and more about your contributions to your life and those you love. Don't hesitate to make a move or attend an event that takes you down memory lane. Let your emotions lead the way. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are kind, loyal and helpful. You are conscientious and proactive.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

				9	2	5	3	
5		2	1			4		
	1				8			2
	4			8			7	5
		1	3	2				6
	8	6		1				
6			8		4			
		9					5	
	2	8		5				

Difficulty: ★★★★ 5/3

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

4	9	7	6	2	8	1	5	3
6	5	3	9	4	1	2	8	7
1	2	8	7	5	3	4	9	6
9	6	1	8	3	2	7	4	5
7	8	5	1	9	4	3	6	2
2	3	4	5	6	7	9	1	8
3	4	6	2	8	9	5	7	1
5	1	2	4	7	6	8	3	9
8	7	9	3	1	5	6	2	4

Difficulty: ★★★ 5/2

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

IN LOVING MEMORY Solution: 4 letters

C	C	M	C	D	R	A	C	H	E	R	I	S	H	S
B	O	O	E	R	E	M	E	M	B	E	R	Y	Y	U
I	O	N	M	S	O	T	E	K	C	O	L	M	G	P
R	B	U	D	F	S	S	O	N	G	F	B	P	O	P
T	I	M	Q	O	O	A	S	F	R	O	Y	A	L	O
H	T	E	P	U	L	R	G	E	L	R	J	T	U	R
D	U	N	L	I	E	E	T	E	A	O	E	H	E	T
A	A	T	F	T	E	T	N	S	S	S	W	Y	P	O
Y	R	E	T	N	U	O	R	C	E	H	E	E	P	R
E	Y	E	I	B	I	E	L	R	E	S	L	T	R	E
A	L	R	O	G	V	I	U	A	O	S	R	U	A	S
R	H	O	I	I	G	T	R	R	G	E	Y	B	Y	P
S	K	L	N	H	C	T	M	Ⓢ	Ⓢ	Ⓘ	Ⓜ	I	E	E
S	E	N	T	I	M	E	N	T	A	L	F	R	R	C
R	A	S	P	E	C	I	A	L	Q	U	O	T	E	T

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Anniversary, Birthday, Books, Bouquet, Butterfly, Card, Cherish, Comfort, Condolences, Cross, Eulogy, Flowers, Gift, Heart, Jewelry, Letter, Life, Light, Locket, Messages, Miss, Monument, Obituary, Pictures, Post, Prayer, Quote, Religion, Remember, Respect, Rose, Sentimental, Shrine, Song, Soul, Special, Support, Symbol, Sympathy, Tribute, Years

Yesterday's Answer: Attorney

The NEW **TELEWORD VINTAGE COLLECTION EDITION #1** can be purchased on line at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Celtics advance to East semis, beating short-handed Heat in Game 5

AP

Boston Celtics guard Jaylen Brown, right, slams a dunk against Miami Heat center Bam Adebayo (13) during the first half of Game 5 of an NBA basketball first-round playoff series, Wednesday, May 1, 2024, in Boston.

BOSTON (AP)—If this playoff run is about redemption for the Boston Celtics, it had to start with exacting some revenge against the Miami Heat.

A year ago, Miami embarrassed Boston in a Game 7 showdown at TD Garden.

This time, the Celtics returned the favor.

Jaylen Brown and Derrick White each scored 25 points and the Celtics advanced to the Eastern Conference semifinals, beating the short-handed Heat 118-84 in Game 5 on Wednesday night.

Boston will face the winner of the Cleveland-Orlando series. The Cavaliers lead 3-2, with Game 6 in Orlando on Friday night.

Brown said they went into the game with a business-like approach.

"It is a lot of history, back and forth. But it didn't matter who it was," Brown said. "We just had to get the job done."

That was echoed by teammate Jayson Tatum.

"I think this is my fourth time playing them in playoffs," Tatum said. "They all count the same. ... We did our job. We took care of business."

Brown also had six assists, and White hit five 3-pointers. Sam Hauser added 17 points and Tatum had 16 points and 12 rebounds, The top-seeded Celtics never trailed and led by 37 points.

Bam Adebayo scored 23 points and Tyler Herro had 15 for Miami, which made its first exit from the playoffs prior to the conference finals since 2021. The Heat struggled throughout, going 3 of 29 from 3-point range.

Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said it was clear early that the Celtics were playing with some extra energy from the opening tap.

"They probably had something to motivate them even more against us," he said.

Despite the lopsided loss and the way their season ended, Adebayo said he is taking lessons into the offseason.

"We've gained a lot of mental toughness," he said. "Going through that as a captain, it helped me understand that the ship's going to get rocky sometimes.

Boston played for the first time this postseason without center Kristaps Porzingis after he strained his right calf in the Celtics' Game 4 victory. His teammates filled in the gaps, as the Celtics' lead reached 30 points in the first half.

Boston exploited a Heat team that was the most injured it'd been in the series. Jaime Jaquez Jr. sat out after suffering a hip injury in Game 4. He was replaced in the lineup by Delon Wright, marking the 37th starting five the Heat used this season. Jaquez joined Jimmy Butler (knee) and Terry Rozier (neck), who had both been sidelined since the start of the series.

It made for unique rotations for Miami, which included veteran Patty Mills logging minutes for just the third time in the series.

Boston seized on the vulnerabilities in the Heat's defense, spreading them out and knocking down eight 3-pointers in the opening period. It helped the Celtics carry an 18-point lead into the second quarter.

The highlight of the opening 12 minutes came courtesy of White, who pulverized Miami from long distance with eight 3s in Game 4. He stayed on the attack early Wednesday, faking a 3-point attempt and then driving in for an uncontested one-handed dunk.

White played to the home crowd afterward, holding his hand in front of his face as he backpedaled up the court. After the Heat called a timeout, a courtside fan near the Celtics' bench could be seen pantomiming fanning White on the sideline.

"I think that's when I'm at my best, when I'm having fun out there," White said. "But at the same time realizing this is a best moment and we're all locked into it."

MAVERICKS 123, CLIPPERS 93

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Luka Doncic scored 20 of his 35 points in the second half and added 10 assists and seven rebounds, propelling Dallas to a victory over the Los Angeles Clippers in Game 5 and a 3-2 lead in their first-round series.

Maxi Kleber hit five 3-pointers and Kyrie Irving added 14 points for the Mavericks, who clamped down on the Clippers defensively and won decisively in Los Angeles for the second time in the series. Dallas moved to the brink of its first playoff series victory since 2022 and only its third since winning the NBA title in 2011.

Doncic is playing on a sprained right knee that limited him at times in the series, but the Slovenian superstar clearly got more comfortable and more dangerous as Game 5 went on. He had 14 points in the third quarter while the Mavs stretched their lead to 25 and eventually took an 89-69 advantage into the fourth, where the Clippers never threatened to do an imitation of Dallas' rally back from a 31-point deficit in Game 4.

Game 6 is Friday night in Dallas. If necessary, Game 7 will be back in Los Angeles on Sunday.

Stevens selected NBA's executive of the year after Celtics' NBA-best regular season run

Brad Stevens was announced Tuesday as the NBA's executive of the year after helping build a Boston Celtics team that posted the league's best record in the regular season.

It's the first such award for Stevens, who is in his third season as president of basketball operations for the Celtics after serving as their coach for eight seasons.

The Celtics were an NBA-best 64-18 in the regular season, the fourth-most wins in franchise history.

"I am so thankful to work for the Celtics," Stevens said in a statement. "Our ownership group has given us the support and resources to build this team. The players, coaches, front office, and support staff are amazing—superstars in their jobs across the board.

"This recognition has everything to do with the team, and nothing to do with any one individual. Great teams require that everyone in the building is fully committed to each other and moving in one direction. With that in mind, we are onto Game 5!"

The top-seeded Celtics have a 3-1 lead over the eighth-seeded Miami Heat in the opening round of the playoffs with a chance to clinch Wednesday night.

The voting panel for the executive of the year award consisted of team basketball executives from around the NBA.

Oklahoma City Thunder executive vice president and general manager Sam Presti and Minnesota Timberwolves president of basketball operations Tim Connelly finished in second and third place, respectively.

Stevens is the third winner from the Celtics, joining Danny Ainge (2007-08) and Red Auerbach (1979-80). ***(AP)***

Suns owner Mat Ishbia says franchise is doing 'excellent'

He's quiet on coach Frank Vogel's future

PHOENIX (AP)—Mat Ishbia knows the offseason chatter around the Phoenix Suns is it's a team with a top-heavy roster, salary cap issues and precious little room to maneuver after a disappointing season.

The second-year owner doesn't believe it.

"The narrative that the house is burning is incorrect," Ishbia said. "The Phoenix Suns are doing great. Excellent. Not as good as we want to be. Not as good as we're going to do next year. And that's what we're going to figure out—what we've got to tweak, modify and adjust to win a championship next year."

Ishbia and Suns general manager James Jones talked with the media on Wednesday, three days after their team was swept out of the playoffs in the first round by the Minnesota Timberwolves. It was a weak performance by a franchise that had championship aspirations after assembling the All-Star trio of Devin Booker, Kevin Durant and Bradley Beal.

Ishbia—who splits his time between Michigan and Arizona—is back in the desert to do exit interviews and plot out the direction of the franchise for next season.

That includes deciding whether coach Frank Vogel will return for a second season.

Ishbia said he didn't want to get into Vogel's performance because he hadn't talked with him yet, but mentioned several times he'd like to maintain continuity.

Jones supported his coach.

"I thought Frank did a great job given the circumstances," Jones said. "We assembled a really talented team, primarily three scorers. Whenever you try to get guys to adjust and adapt their games, there's a transition time. It's sometimes a struggle, but I thought he did a great job this year."

Vogel had a tough assignment thanks to questionable roster construction. The Suns didn't have a true point guard—asking Booker and Beal to share that responsibility—and struggled all year with turnovers. They also had a thin bench.

Jones said the team would be open to adding more ball-handlers for next season, but it's got to be the right fit.

"Sure, that's great, but who do you want? Who is available given the way we're built?" Jones said. "Who can fit with this group? Whose game seamlessly fits with this group?"

The Suns' projected starting five for next season is under contract Booker, Beal, Durant, center Jusuf Nurkic and guard Grayson Allen. Allen led the league in 3-point shooting percentage this season and averaged a career-high 13.8 points per game, but he suffered a sprained ankle in Game 1 against the Wolves and wasn't able to contribute much.

The 35-year-old Durant continued to defy age with another stellar season, averaging more than 27 points per game and playing in 75 of 82 games. He's one of the most prolific scorers in NBA history, but it's also fair to wonder how long he can play at this level.

Booker and Durant are among the 12 players who will represent the U.S. in the Paris Olympics this summer.

Booker—who Ishbia called the face of the franchise on Wednesday—averaged 27 points per game and made his fourth All-Star appearance.

"I think, over time, experience is the best teacher," he said after Sunday's loss. "The more you can spend time and feel this hurt together, go through it together, the better off you are in the future."

Tigers even series at 1 apiece vs. Cards as Maeda gets 1st win for Tigers

DETROIT (AP)—Kenta Maeda got his first win for Detroit, allowing four hits over six innings in a 4-1 victory over the St. Louis Cardinals on Wednesday as the Tigers took two of three games in the series.

Matt Vierling had three RBIs for the Tigers, who are 31-16 against St. Louis in interleague play. The teams also met in three World Series, with the Cardinals winning in 1934 and 2006, and Detroit taking the title in 1968.

Maeda (1-1) allowed a fourth-inning home run to Willson Contreras that landed in shrubbery above the centerfield fence. He struck out five and walked none.

The 36-year-old right-hander, who signed a $24 million, two-year contract during the offseason, had a 7.64 ERA in his first four starts but has lowered it to 5.02 by allowing one run over 11 innings in his last two outings. He spent his first seven big league seasons with the Los Angeles Dodgers and Minnesota.

Alex Lange got four outs for his second save.

Miles Mikolas (2-4), facing Detroit for the first time, gave up three runs and six hits in six innings.

AP

Detroit Tigers starting pitcher Kenta Maeda throws during the fifth inning of a baseball game against the St. Louis Cardinals, Wednesday, May 1, 2024, in Detroit.

BREWERS 7, RAYS 1

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Willy Adames homered twice with four RBIs and Colin Rea pitched six scoreless innings to lead Milwaukee over Tampa Bay on Wednesday in the finale of a contentious three-game series.

Milwaukee reliever Abner Uribe was suspended for six games and starter Freddy Peralta for five by Major League Baseball for their roles in a brawl on Tuesday night. Rays outfielder Jose Siri was suspended for three games, and Milwaukee manager Pat Murphy for two. All four also were fined.

Murphy started his suspension on Wednesday, leaving associate manager Rickie Weeks to lead the team. Siri's suspension was cut to two games as part of an agreement, and he served the first game Wednesday. Uribe and Peralta can continue to play until their appeals are resolved.

TWINS 10, WHITE SOX 5

CHICAGO (AP)—Max Kepler and José Miranda hit run-scoring singles to put Minnesota ahead in the seventh, and the Twins rallied late for their 10th straight win over the Chicago White Sox.

Miranda added his third hit for another RBI in a four-run ninth that put it away for the Twins, whose winning streak is their longest since June 2008 and the longest in baseball this season. Willi Castro added an RBI single to cap a three-hit day that included a double and triple.

Alex Kirilloff hit a solo shot off Chicago starter Chris Flexen. Ryan Jeffers knocked in two runs with a double for Minnesota, which has beaten Chicago in eight straight dating to last season.

ROYALS 6, BLUE JAYS 1

TORONTO (AP)—Seth Lugo pitched seven strong innings to win for the fifth time in seven starts, Michael Massey hit a three-run home run and Kansas City beat Toronto.

Bobby Witt Jr. had two hits, scored once and also drove in a run as the Royals won for the fifth time in seven meetings with Toronto.

Witt also turned in a highlight defensive play, making a sliding stop and throwing from one knee to retire Bo Bichette for the final out of the sixth inning.

Salvador Perez had an RBI single and extended his career-best streak of reaching base safely to 21 games. His 27 RBIs lead the American League.

ATHLETICS 4, PIRATES 0

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Ross Stripling threw six strong scoreless innings to earn his first win in nearly two years, and Oakland hit two home runs to beat Pittsburgh to complete their first series sweep of the season.

Abraham Toro and Phil Nevin both went deep to help the A's to their fourth straight victory in front of another sparse crowd of 4,679 at the Coliseum. Kyle McCann added two hits and an RBI.

Stripling (1-5), acquired from San Francisco in the offseason, had lost 10 consecutive decisions for the A's and Giants before putting the clamps on the Pirates offense. The veteran right-hander allowed three hits, had two strikeouts and retired the final seven batters he faced to gain his first win since Oct. 1, 2022.

BRAVES 5, MARINERS 2

SEATTLE (AP)—Chris Sale allowed one run over five innings and struck out nine, Austin Riley had the big blow at the plate with a two-run triple, and Atlanta salvaged the final game of a three-game series with a win over Seattle.

The NL East-leading Braves rebounded after suffering back-to-back defeats for the first time this season with another strong start from Sale and Atlanta's offense taking advantage of an error to score four unearned runs off Seattle starter Emerson Hancock.

Sale (4-1) continued to flash signs of his former self—one of the most dominant lefties in the game before injuries sidetracked his career. He used his assortment of arm angles and pitch shapes to reach a season high in strikeouts while scattering six hits. The only run Sale allowed came with two outs in the fifth inning on Jorge Polanco's blooper.

PHILLIES 2, ANGELS 1

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Kyle Schwarber had a two-run single in the second inning, Alec Bohm extended his hitting streak to 15 games and Philadelphia defeated the Los Angeles Angels.

Philadelphia won the getaway game despite striking out 18 times, the 11th time since 1906 the team has whiffed at least that many times in a game.

Nick Castellanos struck out four times for the fifth time in his career.

Ehire Adrianza hit his first home run in three years for the Angels, who went 3-6 on their homestand and have not won any of their five home series this season.

PADRES 6, REDS 2

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Jake Cronenworth hit a tiebreaking grand slam in the seventh inning and Jurickson Profar had four hits for San Diego who beat Cincinnati to take two of three in the series.

Cronenworth hit his third career grand slam and the second for the Padres this season. It came after Tyler Wade opened the inning with a bunt single over the head of reliever Fernando Cruz (1-2), followed by Profar's single and Fernando Tatis Jr.'s walk. Cronenworth connected to right on the first pitch he saw from Cruz.

Profar, re-signed in the offseason to a $1 million, one-year contract, extended his hitting streak to eight games. He had a two-run single in the fourth.

YANKEES 2, ORIOLES 0

BALTIMORE (AP)—Luis Gil outdueled Corbin Burnes, Oswaldo Cabrera hit a two-run homer in the fifth inning and New York topped Baltimore Orioles.

Gil (2-1) allowed two hits and a walk over a career-high 6 1/3 innings in another low-scoring game between the top two teams in the AL East. Baltimore began this four-game series with victories of 2-0 and 4-2, but Gil's performance helped the Yankees ensure they weren't swept.

The game was significant enough that New York used closer Clay Holmes for the final five outs in his longest

MARLINS 4, ROCKIES 1

MIAMI (AP)—Roddery Muñoz pitched six strong innings to get his first major league win and Miami beat Colorado.

Making his second major league start, the 24-year-old Muñoz (1-0) gave up one run and three hits while striking out seven and walking two. After allowing two base runners in the first, Muñoz retired 11 straight before Elehuris Montero's one-out single in the fifth.

Emmanuel Rivera singled twice and walked, while Luis Arraez and Bryan De La Cruz each drove in a run for the Marlins, who won their first series of the season. Dane Myers drove in two runs with a pinch-hit single in the eighth and has five RBIs over the last two games.

RED SOX 6, GIANTS 2

BOSTON (AP)—Kutter Crawford pitched a career-high seven innings, Connor Wong had three hits and the Boston beat San Francisco.

Crawford (2-1) allowed two runs on four hits—including a home run—and two walks with six strikeouts as the Red Sox won their fourth straight. The right-hander's previous career high was 6 1/3 innings on April 17, 2023, against the Los Angeles Angels.

Wong was 3 for 4 with a run scored and an RBI.

CUBS 1, METS 0

NEW YORK (AP)—Shota Imanaga continued the historic start to his big league career on Wednesday night, throwing seven innings to lead the Chicago Cubs to a win over the New York Mets.

Imanaga (5-0), making his sixth start, allowed three hits and walked one with seven strikeouts to lower his ERA to 0.78. Entering Wednesday, the 30-year-old was the first pitcher since 1901 to go 4-0 with a sub-1.00 ERA and at least 28 strikeouts in his first five starts.

NATIONALS 1, RANGERS 0

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Trevor Williams escaped two bases-loaded, none-out jams while pitching five scoreless innings, four relievers finished off Washington's shutout and Alex Call singled home the game's only run as the Nationals beat Texas Rangers.

Washington (15-15) recorded its third shutout of the season, all since April 17, and has a chance to move above .500 for the first time since July 1, 2021.

After allowing three consecutive singles to open Texas' second inning, Williams (3-0) recorded three outs on eight pitches.

Two singles and a walk loaded the bases for the Rangers again in the fifth. Williams again got the first out on a force at the plate. He then struck out Adolis García, who entered hitting .423 with runners in scoring position, and retired Evan Carter on popup to shallow center.

GUARDIANS 3, ASTROS 2, 10 INNINGS

HOUSTON (AP)—Steven Kwan gave Cleveland the lead with his RBI double in the 10th inning and made a diving catch to start a double play in the bottom of the inning to lead the Guardians to a win over Houston.

Shawn Dubin (0-1) walked Brayan Rocchio to start the 10th before Kwan doubled down the left field line to score the automatic runner and put the Guardians on top 3-2.

Cade Smith (1-0) got the last two outs of the ninth for the win and closer Emmanuel Clase pitched a perfect ninth for his ninth save.

There was one out in the 10th when Mauricio Dubón hit a fly ball into shallow left field where Kwan made a diving catch before throwing to second to retire the automatic runner to end the game.

Kwan singled in the first inning and had an RBI triple in the fifth inning to finish a home run shy of the cycle and end Cleveland's two-game skid.

DODGERS 8, DIAMONDBACKS 0

PHOENIX (AP)—Yoshinobu Yamamoto threw six scoreless innings, rookie Andy Pages hit a two-run homer as part of a five-run second inning, and the Los Angeles Dodgers beat Diamondbacks.

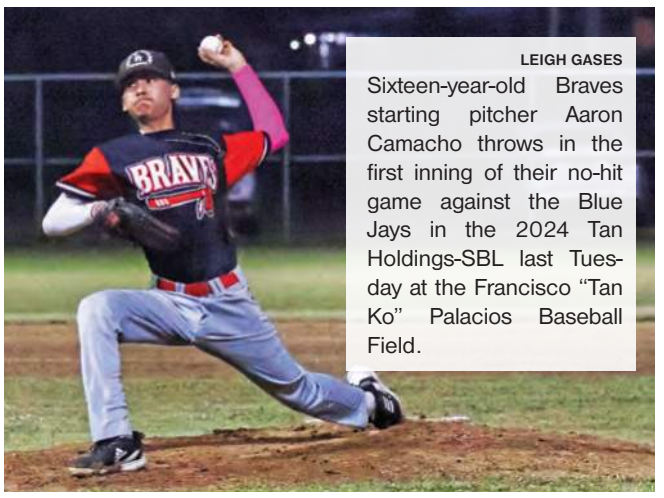
Yamamoto (3-1) continues to pitch well in his first big-league season after signing a $325 million, 12-year deal during the offseason. The Japanese star was roughed up in his first outing on March 21 in South Korea, but has been much better over his past six starts and now has a 2.91 ERA.

The righty gave up five hits and two walks, striking out five.

Pages worked a full count against Arizona's Jordan Montgomery before hammering his 429-foot homer to deep left-center for a 2-0 lead in the second. He's on an eight-game hitting streak and has 10 RBIs in 14 games.

Braves no-hits Blue Jays, 8-0

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



LEIGH GASES
Sixteen-year-old Braves starting pitcher Aaron Camacho throws in the first inning of their no-hit game against the Blue Jays in the 2024 Tan Holdings-SBL last Tuesday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

The Braves rolled out a combined no-hitter against the Blue Jays to win, 8-0, in the 2024 Tan Holdings-SBL last Tuesday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

Braves pitchers Aaron Camacho, Keoni Serrano, and Angelo Igitol combined for the first no-hitter of the season over the Blue Jays for their second win in as many games.

Young gun Camacho, who is only 16, was the starter that stoked the fire for an eventual no-hitter. Heater after heater rejected Blue Jay batters, with only two reaching base from walks in the first inning. The Blue Jays couldn't capitalize and left them on base as Camacho registered three outs.

Meanwhile, the Braves will not be silenced themselves as they scored five runs in the first for a 5-0 lead. Blue Jays errors and the Braves' hot bats were contributing factors as Joel Borja, Achilles Evangelista, Josenio Alvarez, Vicente Camacho, and Jylon Sablan rounded the bases to get them on board.

Blue Jays pitchers tried to hold them down and minimize the damage as the Braves went scoreless from the second to the fourth inning. However, Braves' offense picked up again in the fifth with another run scored by Sablan and Igitol for a 7-0 game.

At this point, a no-hitter was a looming reality after the Blue Jays were retired in order in the second and third. There was only one threat in the Braves' spotless game as in the fifth inning, a defensive mishap allowed Adam Salalila to reach third base after he was walked.

But Braves pitching and defense went on to recover and the Blue Jays wasted a runner in scoring position. Then, Evangelista scored their 8th run in the sixth for an 8-0 Braves lead.

The Blue Jays then fell via strikeouts in the last inning, while Benji Palacios was the only other runner who reached first from base on balls.

Last Wednesday, the game between the Padres and Bears was suspended to a later date due to rain.

GCA

From page 20

was tied, 17-17.

GCA brought their momentum in OT and shut down HMS as their defense held strong, while Fatialofa added five more points to win, 22-17.

In the other game that day, Dandan Middle School blew out Francisco M. Sablan Middle School, 37-5.

Last night at the start of the playoffs, FMS faced off against Chacha Ocean View Middle School; HMS went up against Tanapag Middle School; DMS challenged Tinian Jr. High School; GCA went up against the winner of Game 1; Mount Carmel School took on Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Jr. High School; and the loser of Game of 1 and Game 2 squared off.

GCA 21 – Aaleyah Fatialofa 10, Camacho 7, Pua 4, Aiyanah Fatialofa 1.

HMS 30 – Enriquez 7, Esakova 6, Ayuyu 2, Somol 2.

Scoring by halves: 5-10, 17-17, 22-17, OT.

NMBA

From page 20

line judge for these high-level events is a learning experience for me. While I am excited to watch top-level players play, I must concentrate on the task at hand so I can make the right calls," said Villaflor, who also umpires local and regional matches.

The NMBA official added that the knowledge and experience she will gain from the tournaments in Chengdu are very useful because she is also training local officials that the association will be counting on when the NMI hosts two international competitions in July this year.

"The goal is always to take every knowledge you can get from these events, bring them back and share to others to build local capacity and create pathways for opportunities for them too," Villaflor said. ***(PR)***

NMI

From page 20

the Junior 2, 67-lbs. Ditto for Tate Manglona in the Junior 2, 80-lb division.

"There's always room for improvement. I know I can do better next time. I'm happy. Both me and my brother were able to stand on the podium this year. Tougher competitors this year. It's always a pleasure competing and representing my flag, family, and team," said Trey about the Guam tourney.

Sablan's father Thorn, meanwhile, said his son had a great experience and he's looking forward to the next tournament.

"He was nervous but excited to be in the gold medal match. With this being his first tournament, he felt really accomplished to have placed silver and he is motivated to take home gold the next time he competes at Patgon. He dedicates his podium finish to his parents, family, coaches, and everyone who supports and motivates him."

Travilla, for his part, said he's happy to have given his best and was happy with his performance.

"Being able to place and be recognized on the podium is a humbling and exciting experience for me. Most especially to represent Trench Tech Purebred and the CNMI in jiu-jitsu. This year's competition was tough, but also exciting because I competed against very skilled opponents from Guam. This was also the first time I competed in the no-gi division with limited experience and training, and I was able to secure bronze with a submission. I am ready to go back to training hard and can't wait to compete in the next tournament."

Tate Manglona said the whole experience was just simply amazing.

"I got to stand on the podium for the first time and did it twice. I know I can do better, and I will. I'm happy for my brother and my team. It was a fun tournament. I competed for both gi and no gi and got to push my body to limits it hasn't been before."

Trench Tech Purebred Saipan sensei Cuki Alvarez couldn't be prouder of his burgeoning jiu-jitsu jins.

"I am extremely proud of all our kids. They put in a lot of work at the gym and fought their hearts out with some of the best kid grapplers in the region. Three of them competed for the very first time! Trench Tech Purebred Saipan will continue to work with all our kids and we remain steadfast in our mission and goals to teach our kids the best jiu-jitsu we can and to help them improve their performances not only in the gym and at competition, but in life in general. Biba kids jiu-jitsu!" he said.

Ferrer perfect in Mini II Class

By MARK RABAGO
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EDITOR

T.J. Ferrer ruled anew the Mini II Class of last Sunday's the 2024 "MOTO IV" April Points Race Series at the Cowtown Race Park.

The 13-year-old Tanapag Middle School student won both heats of the Marianas Racing Association race for a perfect 50 points. Calix Cruz was the only other rider in the division and wound up with 44 points.

"The course was awesome! Although it was sandy and rough I like those conditions pretty well. I'm dedicating my win to my dad, mom, sister, and my friends who are always supporting me. I would also like to thank my dad, uncle Champi [Villacanas] for my goggles and Papa Jesus for always guiding and protecting me during my races," said Ferrer.

In the PW ATV Class, Ayven Sablan was all by his lonesome and took the checkered flag with 50 points,

Nakao Torres ruled the Mini ATV with 47 points with Payton Pangelinan second with 25 points. Over in the Power Puff Girls Class, Miyako Celis, Kesiil Camacho, and Hiromi Sasamoto finished 1-2-3 with 50 points, 44 points, and 40 points, respectively.

In the Big Boy ATV, Greg Clark was without compare with a perfect 50 points, followed by the 44 points of Henry Camacho Sr.

Christian Camacho then nipped Matthew Guerrero in the Novice Class after both up-and-coming riders wound up with 47 points apiece. The former, however, won after topping the second heat.

In the Intermediate Class, Aric Cruz ruled the roost with also a big 5-0 with Vicente Palacios, this time, settling for with 44 points. Henry Camacho Jr. was third with 38 points.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

SBL STANDINGS

Braves	2 0
Sandlot	2 0
Bandits	2 0
Falcons	1 0
Padres	1 0
D-9er's	1 0
Royals	1 1
Cardinals	0 1
White Sox	0 1
Bears	0 1
Blue Jays	0 2
Natives	0 2
Blue Shark	0 2

Celtics advance to East semis, beating short-handed Heat in Game 5.

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Sports

Braves no-hits Blue Jays, 8-0.

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GCA, HMS lead girls caging as playoffs start

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

Grace Christian Academy Lady Eagles and Hopwood Middle School Hilitais were atop the standings heading into the IT&E Interscholastic Girls Middle School Basketball League 2023-2024 playoffs.

The playoffs started last night with GCA boasting an undefeated regular season with seven wins, while HMS closed with a 6-1 record after the Lady Eagles gave the Hilitais their only loss, 22-17, in OT last Friday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

The Hilitais actually led the first half as their chemistry and ballhandling panned out better than the Lady Eagles. HMS' Alina Esakova rang in a 3-pointer to start off their offensive, along with accurate shots by Maria Enriquez and Jayla Ayuyu, for a 10-5 lead.

However, at the start of the second half, GCA began to execute their plays and catch up to HMS' lead. Little by little, the Lady Eagles chipped away—first with a 3-pointer from Neveah Camacho, then open fast break plays by Aaleyah Fatialofa, and Wylynn Pua.

At the same time, they held down HMS and induced inaccurate takes at the basket, and allowed only 7 points. Regular time expired and the game

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LEIGH GASES

Hopwood Middle School's Maria Enriquez sets up the play during one of their games in the IT&E Interscholastic Girls Middle School Basketball League 2023-2024 playoffs at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

NMI bags 3 silver, 4 bronze in Guam

By MARK RABAGO
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EDITOR

Trench Tech Purebred Saipan brought home three silver and four bronze medals from the Spring 2024 Patgon Jiu Jitsu Tournament held last Saturday, April 27, at the University of Guam Calvo Field House.

In the go division, Trey Ke'Koa C. Manglona took silver in the teen 114-lb division, while Urijah "Wolfie" Sablan also got the same color medal in the PeeWee 2 55-lb category. Reiden Jiohn P. Travilla and Tate Kiyan C. Manglona also won bronze in the Junior 2, 67-lb and Junior 2, 80-lb categories, respectively.

In the no gi, Trey Manglona also settled for second in the teen 114-lb division. Travilla also came in third in

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Standing second row, from left, coach Ken Tanzawa, professor Cuki Alvarez, and coach Rey Kim. Standing first row, from left, Reiden Travilla, Urijah Wolf Sablan, Deighton Muna, Aiyani Magofna Rios, and Jacqueline "Iris" Quitugua.

2 NMBA officials take on key roles in badminton

Two Northern Marianas Badminton Association officials have committed to take on new roles in the sport outside the NMI.

NMBA president Merlie Tolentino joined the Badminton Oceania Executive Board following her election at the BOC Annual General Meeting in Chengdu, China last week. NMBA secretary general Christy Villaflor, on the other hand, was confirmed Badminton World Federation line judge for the ongoing TotalEnergies BWF Thomas & Uber Cup Finals 2024—the two major tournaments featuring top-ranked players in the world.

Tolentino joins BOC president Loke Poh Wong of Australia, deputy president Glenn Cox of New Zealand, BWF vice president (Oceania) Geraldine Brown, Johanna Kou of New Caledonia, and Ngaoa Ranginui of the Cook Islands on the BOC Executive Board.

"It is an honor to be part of the BOC Executive Board and have the opportunity to work with the men and women in Badminton Oceania who for years have dedicated their time and effort in the continued development of our sport in the region," Tolentino said.

"I look forward to serving our BOC member-associations and being part of a team, whose vision is to make badminton accessible to all," Tolentino said.

Meanwhile, Villaflor made history for her participation in the Thomas & Uber Cup Finals 2024 as a BWF line judge. She is the first line judge from a BOC-MA, outside big guns Australia and New Zealand, to get the BWF line judge appointment for the prestigious competition.

"Being appointed as a BWF

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NMBA

Left photo, NMBA president Merlie Tolentino, center, joins Badminton Oceania president Loke Poh Wong and BOC CEO Julie Carrel for a photo during the BWF Annual General Meeting 2024 in Chengdu, China last week. Right photo, NMBA secretary general Christy Villaflor shows her confirmation plaque as she has been appointed BWF line judge for the major tournaments in Chengdu.